

## Hizbollah fighter killed in south Lebanon

TYRE (AFP) — The Shiite Muslim Hizbollah movement said one of its fighters was killed during a clash on Saturday with the Israeli army in south Lebanon. Mohammad Mussalmani, 19, "became a martyr this morning while carrying out his duty," a spokesman said, without elaborating. The Israeli army fired around 30 shells on the western sector of the self-declared "security zone" it occupies in south Lebanon after it spotted a squad of commandos trying to infiltrate the zone, Lebanese security sources said. Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of southern Lebanon, where the Jewish state maintains a buffer zone to protect its northern territories from cross-border attack.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

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Volume 23 Number 6828

AMMAN SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1998, MUHARRAM 7, 1419

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## Jordanians celebrate anniversary of King's rule with flowers, fireworks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians on Saturday celebrated 45 years since His Majesty King Hussein, the Middle East's longest serving leader, assumed his constitutional powers. National flags adorned public buildings throughout the Kingdom with street processions and fireworks organised to mark the anniversary. The Greater Amman Municipality organised a flower procession which set off from its new building at Ras Al 'Ain. Twenty-five vehicles decorated

with flowers toured the streets of Amman honking their horns. The celebration was accompanied by firework displays held downtown and at the Sixth Circle area. Folklore groups performed in the evening and the Jordanian Armed Forces brass band played at the city hall plaza at Ras Al 'Ain. Another major celebration called for by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali will be held today at the Hussein Sports

City.

Jordanian newspapers, radio and TV stations on Saturday carried tributes to King Hussein, hailing his vast achievements for the Kingdom and in the region over the years and wishing him good health and a long life. Al Ra'i newspaper described King Hussein as a "spring of generosity that never dries up." Al Dustour daily newspaper wrote: "Praise be to God: This is the prayer we recite on the dawning of this blessed day which

carried the fragrance of the achievements of our master and the splendour of his great deeds." King Hussein, now 62, succeeded the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, his grandfather King Abdullah, to the Throne in August 1952 at the age of 17, but it was not until the following May that he formally took up the reins of his constitutional powers upon reaching the age of 18 according to the lunar calendar.



## Prince Hassan, Demirel discuss ensuring success of London talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Turkish President Suleiman Demirel discussed Saturday means to push the peace process forward and ensure the success of the upcoming London meeting between the U.S. and Palestinian and Israeli leaders. Speaking during a meeting with President Demirel, the Crown Prince said that a failure of the meeting would bring an adverse impact on the whole region. The two leaders also discussed issues of common concern and means

to develop bilateral relations. The Turkish president, who hosted a lunch banquet for Prince Hassan and the accompanying delegation, said that his country will stay in contact with Washington and Israel to ensure the success for the upcoming meeting in London. Prince Hassan and President Demirel reviewed the situation in Iraq and agreed on the need for alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people and the lifting of sanctions. The situation in Kosovo was also on the agenda of the Crown Prince and

President Demirel who stressed the importance of containing the crisis in order to avert any aggravation of the situation there. Prince Hassan briefed President Demirel on His Majesty King Hussein's visits to Germany, Denmark and Tunisia. The Crown Prince also held talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem on boosting bilateral relations. The Crown Prince is accompanied by deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Jawad Anani.

## Duisenberg gets top euro bank position

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Dutchman Wim Duisenberg was Saturday named as the first president of the European Central Bank (ECB) after agreeing to stand down before the end of his eight-year term of office to make way for his French rival Jean-Claude Trichet. The deal, confirmed by the European Union's British Presidency, came after nearly six hours of debate at a summit of EU leaders that finally ended months of acrimonious wrangling over the powerful post. Mr. Duisenberg, 62, will take office in July, when the Central Bank is established in Frankfurt. From January, when the euro is launched, the bank will have exclusive responsibility for running the new currency and setting one interest rate for the 11 countries that will adopt it. Sources said he would signal that he intends to stay in the office until after the euro notes and coins are introduced in 2002 but would not give a specific commitment on the timing of his departure. Mr. Duisenberg had himself warned in the run-up to the summit that a decision to split

the first president's mandate would seriously damage the credibility of the new currency. Similar concerns have been expressed by Germany, which had strongly backed Mr. Duisenberg as the kind of candidate who could reassure a sceptical German public that the euro would be as strong and stable as the mark. In the end however, Saturday's compromise was the only way of getting round French President Jacques Chirac's insistence that he was ready to veto the Dutchman. Bryan Cassidy, a British member of the European Parliament's monetary committee, said he did not think the assembly would endorse Mr. Duisenberg's nomination on the basis of a "fudged" agreement. "A lot of people will be disinclined to endorse Mr. Duisenberg and in four years time they will be even less inclined to endorse a French successor," he said. The parliament has to be consulted on the choice of the ECB chief and other members of the bank's executive board. But it does not have the power

to veto any appointments. The deal on Mr. Duisenberg cleared the way for the leaders to issue a definitive green light for the 11 countries to merge their currencies into the euro. Euro-land will comprise Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Finland, Austria and Ireland. Of the four remaining EU members, Greece failed to meet the economic conditions for joining and Britain, Sweden and Denmark opted out for the moment. Even without those four, the euro-zone will stretch from the frozen wastes of the Arctic circle to the shores of the Mediterranean and from the Atlantic to the Balkans. It will embrace nearly 290 million consumers and will rival the United States in terms of economic power. Supporters of the project say the euro will revitalise the participating economies by boosting cross-border competition, leading to lower prices for consumers and stimulating a qualitative leap forward in the competitiveness of European industry and business. The strict budget discipline that euro countries have com-

mitted themselves too will ensure the new currency is a strong rival for the dollar as well as a catalyst for sweeping reforms of labour markets and government spending programmes. Opponents fear that the fiscal discipline that has marked the run-up to monetary union will soon unravel as unemployment continues to rise, exacerbated by the imposition of a one-size-fits-all interest rate for an area in which there will be wide variations in economic trends. They also point out that although European political and economic leaders are overwhelmingly in favour of the euro, public opinion is at best lukewarm and at times outrightly hostile. Finance ministers were due Saturday evening when they would set the bilateral exchange rates under which the participating countries will enter monetary union on Jan. 1. The rates were widely expected to match the currencies' central parities in the European exchange rate mechanism, a currency grid that was used to prepare the ground for the euro.

## Prince Abdullah promoted

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday issued a Royal Decree promoting His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Commander of the Special Forces, to the rank of Major General as of Saturday, May 2, 1998. Addressing a special ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of the formation of the Special Forces, the King said the promotion was made in accordance with a recommendation made by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafeth Mirai Kaabneh. King Hussein lauded the role of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Public Security Department, the General Intelligence Department and the Civil Defence Department saying that he instructed the Prime Minister and the government to issue employees of these departments an additional month's salary at the end of May as a symbolic gesture of appreciation for their role in



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah (J.T. file photo)

defending the homeland. Prince Abdullah, the eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein, studied at the Islamic Educational College in Amman until the year 1966. He attended St. Edmund's school in Surrey, England and later attended Deerfield Academy in the United States where he completed his high school. In 1980 Prince Abdullah joined the Royal Academy at Sandhurst in England where he completed his military education, followed by an additional year at Oxford University where he studied international politics and world affairs. From August 1987 to May 1988, he attended the School of Foreign Service at George town University in Washington DC. In January 1993 Prince Abdullah was promoted to colonel.

## Iraq stokes campaign for lifting of sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq turned up the heat on the U.N. Security Council on Saturday, accusing the body of being manipulated by the United States and Britain and demanding an immediate lifting of economic sanctions. "The Iraqis are suffering as they see the Security Council held hostage by one sole member country [the United States], supported by the imperialist devil Britain," said the official Babel newspaper. Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan meanwhile said the Security Council had a moral obligation to lift the eight-year-old economic embargo as Iraq had complied with all U.N. disarmament resolutions. "Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations and now it is up to the international community to fulfil its responsibilities," Mr. Ramadan told the opening of a meeting of Arab trade unionists. Babel, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, also turned on U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan for his "silence" when the Security Council decided Monday to roll over economic sanctions on Iraq. And it lamented the "broken promises of certain senior members" of the Security Council, an allusion to China, France and Russia — the three permanent members who favour an easing of the embargo. China called for the sanctions to be progressively eased and hailed Iraq's cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors, while both France and Russia called for the nuclear dossier of Iraq's disarmament programme to be closed — a move opposed by Washington. On Friday Iraq's leadership issued a stern warning that steps must be taken to lift the embargo. "The fact that almost nothing has been done to lift the embargo... could well lead to serious consequences," said an open letter to the Security Council.

## Israel bars RJ planes from flying through its airspace

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights to and from Europe and North America were not allowed to overfly Israel Saturday, a senior airline official said. Nader Dahabi, the national carrier's president, said that the RJ flights were diverted to fly through Syrian airspace instead. Mr. Dahabi said that no reason was given by the Israelis for their action but that consultations were under way to solve the problem. "The Israelis have closed their airspace for reasons which until now are not clear to us. Therefore, our planes were forced to fly over Israel and were forced to use other routes," Mr. Dahabi told the Jordan Times. "Until 8:30 p.m. the Israeli ban was in force and we are

making contacts with them to find out the reasons behind the closure of their airspace," the official added. Sources in Tel Aviv told the Associated Press (AP) that Israeli air traffic controllers

**Dahabi:  
no reasons  
were given**

were not allowing Jordanian flights because of the Sabbath. AP quoted Israel Radio as saying the controllers restricted the number of RJ flights because the number of controllers on duty on Saturday, had been cut by half. However, Pin Schiff, spokesman for the Israel Airports Authority, told AP that no cuts had been made and air traffic controllers had held a wild-cat strike without justifi-

cation. "We had an agreement with them and they violated it," Mr. Schiff said, but he declined to give details on the agreement. The Israeli aviation official said that only the plane carrying Her Majesty Queen Noor was allowed to cross Israeli airspace. The decision to cut the staff was taken by the airport authority and the transport ministry, AP said. The reason for the alleged cut was not explained. But Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom is from the National Religious Party which is opposed in principle to Jews being forced to work on the Sabbath, the agency said. Israel agreed to allow Jordanian civil air traffic to fly through its airspace shortly after the October 1994 peace treaty between the two countries.

## U.S.: Big gaps between Israel, PNA remain

Combined agency  
dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF State Madeleine Albright faces a "difficult task" bridging the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians. U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said Saturday. "There are significant gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian positions that the secretary will seek to overcome," Mr. Rubin said after Ms. Albright arrived in Mongolia for a six-hour visit. "But this will be a difficult task." Mr. Rubin said Ms. Albright assessed the situation after speaking to U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who was in Israel. "At this point, she has no reason to think that we are in a position to bridge the gaps but we will try to do so," Mr. Rubin said. "This process cannot go on indefinitely, and there are grave dangers if we can't get back on track," he added. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat are due to meet separately with Ms. Albright in London on

Monday to tackle a U.S. proposal designed to resolve issues left over from interim peace accords and to launch negotiations on a final peace settlement. Meanwhile, U.S. national security adviser Sandy Berger told a Brookings Institution forum Friday that the current stalemate in the talks is "a serious threat to peace and stability in the region." "I believe there is a significant degree of urgency in getting the peace talks resumed," He said Ms. Albright would discuss ideas to bring about an agreement to get final status talks going. "We will be discussing with them our own ideas as to get final status talks resumed, and I hope that they will see their way to follow that," he said. "We can impose a settlement but any settlement we will impose will not endure... Our job is to try to bridge that gap between Israelis and Palestinians." He said U.S. officials would make an "unrelenting effort until we have progress."

## PNA warns failure in talks could bring back violence

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Friday warned that a breakdown in Middle East peace talks in London could lead to a return to Middle East violence, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. "Israel should know that a failure in the London meetings will mean a return to violence and chaos in the ensemble of the region," the PNA said as it met in Ramallah under the chairmanship of President Yasser Arafat. Earlier Friday in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after talks with U.S. Vice President Al Gore said it would take a "considerable stretch" to reach agreement in the London talks on Monday. "My optimism says I hope we will have an agreement in London. But my realism says that for that to happen there would need to be considerable stretching," Mr. Netanyahu said at a joint press conference with Mr. Gore. But Mr. Arafat warned that the London talks, "aimed at saving the peace process from

collapse, must come up with the results required to maintain security, peace and stability in the Middle East, because their failure will open the way to a return to chaos and insecurity for all." The Palestinian government statement quoted by Wafa added that, "Israel must appreciate the gravity of the situation and the current circumstances of the peace process." The London talks were "a precious opportunity for a real breakthrough in the peace process, especially as the international community realises the efforts which the Palestinians have made for these meetings to be held, at a time when the Israeli government is continuing its policy of obstinacy and provocation," the statement said. Mr. Netanyahu has rejected U.S. proposals for a withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank and he insisted Friday that the Palestinians, who have reluctantly accepted the U.S. compromise although it falls far short of their original demands, must make further concessions.



## Israeli soldiers dump injured Palestinian outside Jericho

JERICHO (AFP) — Palestinian security officials protested Saturday against Israeli soldiers who dumped an injured Palestinian on a road outside Jericho after treating him for gunshot wounds inflicted by Israeli troops last week.

Arafat Mahmoud Said Al Kaud, 38, was shot and seriously injured in the chest and stomach a week ago by an Israeli patrol which found him near the Jordan border outside the Palestinian-run enclave of Jericho.

Mr. Kaud, a native of the West Bank town of Hebron, told AFP he was released on Thursday, when Israeli officers took him from his hospital room in Jerusalem and

drove him to an intersection outside Jericho.

"They just dumped me on the road. It was night and I didn't know where I was. I had to ask at a nearby gas station where I was," said Mr. Kaud from his bed in Jericho hospital.

Palestinian security officials protested at Mr. Kaud's treatment, saying Israeli soldiers "treated him like a dog."

The office of the Palestinian liaison with the Israeli army "was only a kilometre away from where they dumped him. They could have had the decency to contact us and hand him over directly to us," said one official, who asked not to be named.

Israeli troops opened fire on Mr. Kaud on April 26, suspecting he was an infiltrator being hunted by both Israel and Palestinian police.

"I didn't even know I was in a border area. I was just walking around and suddenly they opened fire on me," Mr. Kaud said.

Mr. Kaud's family told Palestinian security officials that Mr. Kaud had mental problems and had often wandered off in the past.

"When the Israelis found he had a mental condition and was not an infiltrator, they released him. But they did it in a way that was totally inhuman," the Palestinian security official said.



SCUFFLE IN BAGHDAD: Palestinians attending a conference in support of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in Baghdad scuffle Saturday. The brawl between pro- and anti-Arafat factions started during an address by a pro-Arafat Palestinian to about 500 Iraqi and Arab workers (AP photo)

## Iranian papers criticise U.S. report accusing Iran of terrorism

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian newspapers on Saturday rejected a U.S. report that accuses Iran of terrorism, saying the "totally baseless" allegation would only widen the gap between the two nations.

The U.S. State Department's annual report on terrorism, issued Thursday, listed Iran as the world's "most active" sponsor of terrorism.

The government-run Tehran Times responded in an editorial: "Instead of resorting to a misinformation campaign against Iran, Washington had better concentrate on exploring avenues as how to improve bilateral ties."

"Though the report is totally baseless, it was not unexpected," the English-language newspaper said.

Iran News and other newspapers also published similar comments.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami took the first step toward improving ties with the United States in January, when he called for cultural exchanges. The United States severed ties with Iran soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the U.S.-backed shah. Since then Washington has regularly accused Tehran of sponsoring terrorism.

A diplomat at Iran's U.N. mission in New York said there was no "valid evidence" for the allegations, which he said had "added another brick to the wall of mistrust between the two countries," the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The U.S. report said Tehran conducted at least 13 assassinations in 1997, the majority in northern Iraq.

The report said Iran's targets normally include, but are not limited to, members of the regime's main opposition groups, including the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and the Mujahideen Khalq Organisation (MKO).

Tehran Times defended Iran's attacks on the Mujahideen Khalq. "Given the terrorist nature of the MKO, it is quite natural for Iran to attack its military bases inside Iraqi territory," the newspaper said.

## Israeli terminal at Rafah border crossing ravaged by electrical fire

RAFAH (AFP) — A fire, apparently caused by a short circuit, ravaged the Israeli sector of the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip overnight, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Saturday.

An Israeli army spokesman told AFP Palestinian and Israeli firefighters had joined in putting out the blaze, but he could not specify the cause of the fire or the extent of the damages.

Palestinian security officials, who have their own terminal at the crossing, said the

blaze destroyed a computer room, part of the waiting hall used by travellers and an Israeli police post.

One Palestinian fireman was hurt as they tried to put out the flames, said a Palestinian official.

Israeli firemen had to rush to the site from the south Israeli town of Ashkelon, nearly an hour away, and arrived to find the blaze mostly extinguished and the terminal charred and destroyed, he said.

The Palestinian part of the terminal was spared except

for a small room for employees which was slightly damaged.

The Rafah terminal, under overall Israeli control according to self-rule agreements, is divided into two sections, one for Israelis crossing from Egypt into the country.

The other side, for Palestinians entering the self-rule area of the Gaza Strip, is run by Palestinian officials but Israeli security has a presence to monitor baggage and passports.

Traffic through the Israeli side was halted by the blaze.

## Turkish police arrest 11 far-left militants following May Day riot

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police detained 11 suspected far-left militants on Saturday after clashes between leftists and riot police at a May Day rally.

Anadolu News Agency said police rounded up the suspects in the western city of Bursa. They are accused of links to the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C)

urban guerrilla group.

The agency quoted Bursa assistant police chief Bulent Eliazik as saying the group had recently sent a leader to the city from near Istanbul to organise a guerrilla network.

Police wielding batons clashed with far-left militants at a large May Day rally in central Istanbul on Friday. Dozens of demon-

strators were hurt, most of them beaten by police, and more than 100 were detained.

The DHKP-C is the largest of Turkey's many extreme-left factions. It was accused of rocket attacks on police buildings in Istanbul last year. The group shot dead industrialist Ozdemir Sabanci in 1996.

## Iraq newspaper says Russian, Chinese oil deals should go to U.S.

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper said on Saturday that oil contracts signed with Russian and Chinese companies should instead go to U.S. firms, which can pressure President Bill Clinton to end U.N. sanctions on Iraq.

Iraqi newspapers said that Russia, China and France, which have traditionally had lucrative trade ties with Iraq, had done little to prevent the U.N. Security Council from prolonging the sanctions on Monday.

The weekly newspaper Al Mustaqbal (The Future), owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, called on the Iraqi government to cancel oil contracts signed last year with Russian and Chinese companies and grant them to American firms.

"We should cancel contracts, which in

fact have not been implemented yet, with Russia and China and suspend talks with the French to sign new contracts and start negotiations with those who can twist [U.S. President Bill] Clinton's neck," the paper said in reference to U.S. oil firms.

Another paper owned by Uday, Babel, echoed the same theme in a front-page editorial.

"Promises of some of the big [superpowers] that they would work for the implementation of paragraph 22 [lifting embargo on Iraq's oil export] were absent during the recent meeting of the Security Council," it said.

Babel, Iraq's most influential newspaper, said some member states of the council had not called for lifting the sanctions for the fear that it would be

vetoed by the United States.

Iraq last year signed contracts with Russian and Chinese firms to help develop large oil fields in southern Iraq. Baghdad has also been negotiating with two French firms to develop two oil fields in the south.

Implementation of these contracts would not start until the sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait were lifted.

Al Mustaqbal said: "The recent review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq for more than seven years has proved that France, Russia and China are unable to do anything to break the embargo."

"We should wash our hands from the idea that these three big powers... can help us to break the embargo," it added.

## Moustache hairy issue in Turkish campaign against Islamists

By Susanne Gusten  
Agence France Presse

ISTANBUL — Istanbul barber Hasim Ozkurt explains why most Turks wear a moustache. "It's the Turkish way," he says.

But as the Turkish state steps up its campaign against the Islamist movement, even this most quintessential symbol of Turkishness is not left untouched.

A recent directive to civil

servants, aimed at tightening the strictly secular dress code, specifies the exact length and shape of the politically correct moustache, which must be clipped straight and end above the upper lip.

This is tantamount to a curtailment of freedom of expression in a country where political and religious beliefs are often expressed in terms of facial hair.

"You can easily identify a man by his moustache," Mr.

Ozkurt said, pausing for a moment with scissors in hand in his small shop in Istanbul's conservative Fatih district above the Golden Horn.

His customers, lathered up for a shave or waiting their turn over a cup of tea, joined him in enumerating the various styles and their significance.

A full moustache with pronounced, down-turned ends at the corner of the mouth denotes a rightist nationalist,

everyone agreed.

A smallish brush moustache, on the other hand, in the style popularised by the former leader of the banned Islamist Welfare Party, Necmettin Erbakan, shows the wearer to be a follower of political Islamism.

And a long moustache that hangs over the upper lip and touches the lower, is the sign of an old-fashioned leftist.

Most young men in Turkey begin to grow a moustache as soon as they possibly can, said 29-year-old Hancil Bolat, himself a barber by profession, stopping by his colleague's place for a chat.

His moustache is usually interrupted by military service, during which recruits are required to remain clean-shaven.

"Mine didn't get anywhere until after military duty," Mr. Bolat admitted.

His moustache is of the basic kind, neither short nor long and neither up-turned nor down-turned, that carries no message but that its bearer is Turkish.

But moustaches can also express a preference for a certain life-style, Mr. Ozkurt explained.

A moustache shaped like two airplane wings that just barely touch in the middle is called an "Istanbul-style" moustache and advertises the wearer to be an urban dweller. And a long moustache with twisted ends is called an Ottoman moustache and is a sign of nostalgia.

But when it comes to strong religious beliefs, a moustache is often not enough.

"A true Muslim must have a full beard," Mr. Ozkurt said.

A hajji who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca will wear his beard long in front and combed out in the shape of a half-moon.

Younger faithful wear their full beards a bit shorter and pointier, taking pains to keep the outline sharp and precise by shaving off stray hairs above and below the hairline.

These beards have become a bone of contention between the state and the Islamist movement.

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### PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — Pumpkin Patch  
15:20 Cartoon — The Pink Panther  
15:30 .....Skippy  
16:00 The American Chart Show  
17:00 .....In The Wild  
18:00 .....French Programme  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....French Programme  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 Life's Most Embarrassing Moments  
20:00 Documentary — The People and Places of Africa  
20:30 Talk Show — Challenges  
21:10 .....Drama — Renegade  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Drama — Silent Witness  
23:59 .....End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

14:18 .....Fajr  
15:44 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
2:32 .....Dhuhr  
6:12 .....Asr  
9:21 .....Maghrib  
10:47 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church weifich, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 532785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590  
Sancta Church Tel.

4622366 Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

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Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifich Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

A hot wave will affect the Kingdom today and last for three days causing temperatures to be 7-9 degrees centigrade above average. It will be hot, dry, and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. 16/33

Aqaba 20/40

Deserts 14/25

Jordan Valley 19/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh 4126011

Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain 4622029

Dr. Khalidoun Asfour 5332600

Dr. Awmi Hawamdeh 5332320

Firas pharmacy 5661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 4636772

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 76852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985550

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Rescue Police 192-4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Dept. 4630321

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic Abdi 5666137

Hussien Medical Centre Tel. 836813

Luzyala 4630195

Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6

Akileh Maternity 4642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362

Malhas, J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071

Simeisani Hospital 5669131

University Hospital 5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279

Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7711013

Al-Bashir 7751112/6

Army, Marka 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50

Amal Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983321

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 .....Lamaca (RJ)

10:00 .....Bombay (RJ)

10:25 .....Vienna (RJ)

11:15 .....Aqaba, Rome (add) (RJ)

12:15 .....Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

12:30 .....Rome (RJ)

12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

13:20 .....Athens (RJ)

13:20 .....Frankfurt, London (RJ)

20:05 Aqaba, Brussels (add) (RJ)

21:10 .....Cairo (RJ)

21:20 .....Jeddah (RJ)

21:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)

22:25 .....Damascus (RJ)

22:40 .....Bangkok (RJ)

22:55 .....Lamaca (add) (RJ)

23:00 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

00:30 .....Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

01:00 .....Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30 .....Tel Aviv (LA)

11:00 .....Sanaa, Ta'iz (TY)

12:30 .....Jeddah (SV)

12:50 .....Moscow (SU)

13:30 .....Abu Dhabi (GF)

15:40 .....Doha (QR)

19:00 .....Paris (AF)

20:25 .....Tel Aviv (LA)

21:40 .....Cairo (MS)

22:20 .....Istanbul (TK)

23:35 .....Lamaca (CY)

23:40 .....Beirut (ME)

01:15 .....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

04:15 .....London (BA)

ARRIVALS

Royal Wings (RW)

10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport)

(RW)

10:35 .....Tel Aviv (QAIA) (RW)

23:25 .....Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:30 .....Lamaca (RJ



## Princess Haya turns 24

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein today celebrates her 24th birthday.

Princess Haya, the daughter of His Majesty King Hussein and the late Queen Alia, received her elementary education in Jordan and England, then enrolled at Oxford University, where she studied politics, economics and philosophy.

Princess Haya's interests include philosophy, history and languages, and she is involved in sports, including basketball, football, baseball, and most importantly, equestrian sports and horse riding.

She has participated in numerous international equestrian competitions, including the Zurich Equestrian Festival this year.



which included 36 top riders representing 12 countries.

Princess Haya is currently living in Germany, where she is receiving training on horse riding and horse jumping in preparation for participation in an international championship.



PRINCESS ALIA ATTENDS CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION: HRH Princess Alia on Tuesday inspected drawings during a visit to a children's art exhibition held at the Franciscan School in western Amman. Princess Alia toured the exhibition and was briefed on the school's skill training programme, which is held annually (Petra photo)

## Lawsuit over Sharon's assassination threats to be filed at international court

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Lawyers' Union (ALU) has decided to file a lawsuit at the International Court of Justice in The Hague against Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon for his threats to assassinate Khaled Misha'al, a leading Hamas member and head of the movement's office in Amman.

The ALU entrusted Jordanian lawyer Hussein Mjalli to prepare the case, which includes a request to indict Mr. Sharon, two members of the Israeli Mossad intelligence service, namely Bari Peter and Sean Kendal, as well as the Israeli government.

The ALU is demanding that Israel pay compensation for material and other damages incurred by Mr. Misha'al as a result of "this terrorist Israeli action."

Sources at the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) told the

Jordan Times that lawyer Farouq Abu Issa, ALU secretary general, has referred the case to a group of Arab legal experts for endorsement before filing it at the International Court of Justice.

According to the case sheet: — On Sept. 25, 1997, the two Mossad agents attacked Jordanian citizen Khaled Misha'al with a device that emitted poisonous chemical substances. This attack, directed at his head, caused Mr. Misha'al to become seriously ill and spend some time in the intensive care unit at an Amman hospital before he was finally cured.

— The state of Israel planned the assassination attempt after closely watching Mr. Misha'al's movements. This clearly exposes their premeditated plot.

— On March 14, 1998, Mr. Sharon stated on Israeli television that Israel intended to assassinate Mr. Misha'al despite the failed attempt.

— This open threat, which was carried by news agencies and the media, is an act of terrorism, a flagrant violation of international law and an unprecedented violation of human rights and the U.N. charter.

— Mr. Sharon's statement, delivered on behalf of the state of Israel, was an unprecedented serious violation of international relations and an act against peace and humanity.

— These remarks display a total disregard for international law and an infringement on the rights and sovereignty of the country in which the assassination attempt took place.

The lawsuit demands that the International Court of Justice condemn Mr. Sharon and those implicated in the crime and that those responsible for "this Israeli act of terrorism" pay fair compensation for the damages inflicted on Mr. Misha'al.

## Public awareness campaign on family planning begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Population Commission (NPC) today begins a two-month campaign to orient the public on population-related issues and provide basic information on the medical and social aspects of family planning.

NPC Secretary General Nabih Salamah said the campaign, which is being carried out in conjunction with the ministries of health, social development and awqaf and Islamic affairs, will be implemented by 20 teams.

According to Mr. Salamah, each team com-

prises three persons: a Muslim scholar, a doctor and a social worker.

The campaign will cover the Amman and Irbid governorates and will be in line with a national population strategy endorsed by the government in 1996.

Lina Qarden, director of communications at the NPC, said the teams, who have been specially trained for the campaign and have been provided with the necessary materials, will conduct 160 sessions with Jordanian citizens in each of the two governorates.

The campaign, being held

under the theme "together for the creation of a happy family," also aims at encouraging husbands and wives to hold a dialogue and guarantee equality among male and female children, Ms. Qarden said.

The NPC said recent population studies showed that 25 per cent of Jordanian families require information on family planning. This number indicated a desire to delay pregnancy for at least two years but required counselling and advice on birth spacing and means of achieving this objective, it added.

## Human rights group says press freedoms, information access situation deteriorated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Society for Human Rights (JSHR) Saturday said freedoms of the press and opinion and the right of citizens to have access to information deteriorated last year.

In a statement marking International Press Freedom Day today, the JSHR said Jordan witnessed a number of arbitrary restrictions, including the introduction of the temporary Press and Publications Law in violation of the constitution, the suspension of most of the weekly newspapers, a ban on citizens from expressing their feelings in the face of U.S. provocations against Iraq, and the arrest of journalists in a manner reminiscent of the days of martial law.

"The May 3, 1997-May 3, 1998 period was a black year for freedom of the press and expression in Jordan, as was clear in the reports of three world human rights groups," said the statement.

"What is more surprising is to see this retreat taking place less than two years after a government announcement of plans to scrap the Ministry of Information and raise the ceiling of the press freedoms, and at a time when satellite stations and the Internet make it impossible for any country to prevent its citizens from having access to information," it added.

In marking the International Press Freedom Day, the JSHR focuses its attention on the positive and negative elements pertaining to the press and the government's behaviour toward journalists, said the statement.

"In monitoring the exercise of press freedoms in Jordan over the past year, the JSHR regrettably did not find any bright aspects that deserve praise. An exception is the historic verdict passed by the High Court last January, which ruled that the tem-

porary Press and Publications Law was unconstitutional, as were the subsequent administrative decisions that prevented the weeklies from publishing," noted the statement.

It said another bright point was a High Court verdict last November which prevented the Press and Publications Department (PPD) from removing the editor-in-chief of Al Arab Al Yawm daily from his post.

The statement pointed to the following violations against freedom of the press: — On May 17, 1997, while a seminar on human rights in Jordan was under way, the government issued a temporary law on press and publications, drawing protests from political and other groups and organisations in Jordan and abroad;

— On May 19, 1997, a large police force despatched by the government to quell a peaceful demonstration by journalists protesting the temporary law injured a number of protesters;

— On Sept. 20, 1997, the minister of culture issued orders preventing any cultural function in Jordan that had not received prior police approval;

— In October 1997, citizen Ali Sa'id was arrested for expressing his views freely;

— In the last two weeks of October 1997, the PPD prevented 70 Arab and foreign papers from entering Jordan, even though the previous government had cancelled censorship on incoming publications;

— On Oct. 22, 1997, the authorities prevented University of Jordan students from staging a demonstration demanding that their union be licensed;

— Last November, the PPD revoked the licences of 13 weeklies;

— Several journalists were detained;

— Several writers, includ-

ing Muna Shugair, Suhair Tal, Tareq Masarweh and Fakhr Kaway, were prevented from writing;

— In January, the government arbitrarily prevented political parties and popular groups from expressing their feelings against the injustice against the Iraqi people and U.S. threats against Iraq. The government is currently preventing Jordanians from holding rallies in observance of the anniversary of Palestine's occupation;

— The authorities prevented the publication of news about Laith Shbeilat's trial and the murder of Hanna Nadeh, his son and Awni Sa'ad. Furthermore, the authorities on April 9 prevented Al Arab Al Yawm from publishing any information on the crime, even the funeral of the victims.

The statement said journalists continually complain of closed doors, while citizens complain that state television refrains from realistic and objective coverage of Israeli-Palestinian confrontations.

The statement, however, welcomed an announcement that Jordan Television will launch an additional channel featuring cultural and social topics, as well as a recent government statement that the new press and publications law will raise the ceiling of press freedoms and protect journalists' rights.

It urged the government to consult with journalists and the public freedoms committee in Parliament before finalising the new law and called on the government to honour those international human rights accords which it has signed.

The statement paid tribute to the judicial authority in Jordan, describing it as the only authority that provided protection to press freedoms and free expression.

The JSHR also expressed appreciation for all those that contributed to the defence of free press in Jordan.

## Crime rate increases by nearly 2% in 1997 'Organised crime does not exist' in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 46,713 crimes were reported in Jordan last year, an increase of 1.94 per cent from the 45,823 crimes recorded in 1996, according to a Public Security Department (PSD) report issued Saturday.

The report, however, stressed that the crime rate is low compared to other Arab countries and, most importantly, "organised crime does not exist" in the Kingdom.

Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Qudah, acting head of the criminal information section of the PSD, noted that 35.14 per cent of the crimes were misdemeanour cases, 14.39 per cent involved petty theft, 8.9 per cent were drunkenness accompanied by acts of violence, and four per cent were cases of immoral acts.

Lt. Col. Qudah said the number of premeditated murders last year dropped by 2.78 per cent over the 1996 figures, but attempted murders rose by 38.58 per cent. The number of forgery cases increased by 34.81 per cent, while rape cases increased by 46.03 per cent in the same period.

The highest crime rate in 1997 was registered in Amman, which accounted for 43.86 per cent of the total number, followed by the northern governorate of Irbid with 15.24 per cent, and the Zarqa governorate at 12.92 per cent, he added.

According to the PSD official, 5.75 per cent of the crimes were committed by non-Jordanians. The 18-27 age bracket was responsible for the greatest number of crimes, while 56.9 per cent of persons arrested were unemployed.

Police arrested 1,696 suspects, including 60 women and 313 non-Jordanians, in connection with 6,720 robbery, theft and fraud cases, Lt. Col. Qudah said.

Commenting on the report, PSD Director General Nasouh Muhieddin attributed the increase in the number of crimes to the many demographic and social changes that have affected Jordan over the past decade.

The PSD is modernising its methods and training personnel in a bid to stem the crime rate. The department is seeking to step up its cooperation with the public as well, he said.

The report follows a string of unsolved, high-profile crimes, including the murder last month of lawyer Hana Nadeh, his son Suheil, and psychiatrist Awni Sa'ad.

## Societal, financial constraints limiting disabled rights activists' awareness campaigns

By Suha Ma'ayeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A mother of six disabled children approached a rehabilitation centre asking for help. But an official told her she should have thought about not conceiving more children after doctors detected genetically-linked disabilities in her first child — the result of a marriage among first cousins, a common issue in Jordan.

In a nation of 4.5 million people, Jordan has over 130,000 citizens suffering from various forms of disabilities, including mental and physical retardation, according to figures released recently by the Ministry of Social Development.

This, doctors and social workers say, is placing huge financial constraints on the country's limited health, social welfare and education infrastructure, costing it millions of dinars on the treatment of mostly genetically-induced disabilities.

Social workers blame the relatively higher figures of disabled Jordanians on poverty, social ignorance, accidents and consanguineous marriages, a widespread traditional practice in Jordan.

A 1982 population-based study of consanguineous marriages in Jordan, which surveyed 2,000 households, found that 32.03 per cent of marriages were among first cousins, 6.8 per cent among second cousins, 10.5 per cent among distant relations, and 50 per cent no relation.

The study, conducted by

Sami Khoury, a specialist in community medicine at the University of Jordan, and Diana Massad, a research teaching assistant in community medicine at the University of Jordan, showed a correlation between education and consanguinity.

Dr. Khoury told the Jordan Times that marriage between first cousins increased the risk of infant mortality and congenital malformation, though this was not a general rule.

"Malformations are produced whenever there is a gene in the family which carries malformation," he said in an interview.

He said congenital malformations and familial diseases included cardiac septal defect, cleft lips and palates, imperforate anus, hypospadias, congenital dislocation of the hip, blindness, limb, ear or breast anomalies, asthma and diabetes.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Ra'd, who over the years has emerged as Jordan's main advocate for the disabled, underlined the need for couples to conduct genetic tests before they tie the knot to help avoid further disabilities through early detection of such possibilities.

The National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled Persons (NCWDP), which among other things is trying hard to promote such pre-marital medical tests, is facing an uphill battle in a society that still shuns such moves.

Doctors have proven that first

cousin marriages could cause a host of disabilities which could take up to five decades to detect.

"Conducting premarital tests is a [socially] sensitive issue," Prince Ra'd, head of the NCWDP, told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

"Though we respect the privacy of citizens, it is our duty to propose the idea of pre-marital tests to help avoid further disabilities."

In 1994, the Ministry of Health made it obligatory for a couple planning to get married to conduct a pre-marital medical exam. But it left it up to the couple to decide if they wanted to pursue their plans if genetically-linked diseases were detected in the tests.

However, doctors and religious clergymen have said these tests have been largely ignored. "Many people tend to believe that what God gives them is what they deserve," one doctor said. "Hence, they do not really care if pre-marital tests show a high chance of disability in their children."

Prince Ra'd, the chief chamberlain, said disabled people in Jordan enjoy the same constitutional rights granted to any other citizen under a 1993 law for the welfare of disabled.

"It is their rights as citizens of Jordan to become part and parcel of the community," he said. "It is important to regard every person with a disability as a citizen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He/she should be treated with respect, kindness and a genuine feeling of love."

The law granted disabled people rights in terms of their integration "into the general social life, including education, medical treatment, training and rehabilitation, employment and a suitable environment that allows them freedom of movement."

Prince Ra'd stressed the need to apply the building codes rules issued in a 1997 directive to provide facilities to the disabled when premises are built and new roads are opened. "Any new building or structure must have all the necessary features such as lifts, ramps, signs, bathroom fixtures, telephones and other facilities to ensure the safety of the disabled and ease his/her movement," he said. "Any organisation which does not abide by this specification will be heavily fined."

Basil Hourani, director of the Jordanian Sport Centre for the Disabled, said a national strategic plan should be developed to help limit disability, including launching public awareness campaigns.

He said Jordan lacks adequate rehabilitation centres to handle the large number of disabled people, especially in remote areas of the country, and faces a shortage in specialised staff.

The Kingdom has 117 institutions for special education tackling various forms of disabilities.

The relatively high cost of buying equipment for the disabled, such as wheelchairs, artificial limbs and hearing aids, are a major hindrance to efforts to improve their lot.

Prince Ra'd urged non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to play a greater role in helping the disabled.

"The past five years have witnessed a great change in terms of awareness among people regarding the capabilities and potential of people with disabilities."

This was largely aided by the activities of the Jordan Sport Federation for the Disabled, which for the past 15 years has used sports activities to promote their cause.

Through it, many disabled Jordanians have taken part in local, regional and international sports tournaments.

"Winning awards, prizes and medals have brought about a change in the community's perception and attitude within a very short space of time," Prince Ra'd said.



JORDANIAN WINS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION: Fawzi Jumeana, a Jordanian undergraduate attending Yale University in the United States, has won a \$10,000 scholarship for a first place entry in an essay competition. Mr. Jumeana, one of 14 scholarship winners, submitted an essay under the theme "Contrast and compare life in your home country with life in America" to the Today and Tomorrow Scholarship Program Essay Competition, which was organised by the World of Knowledge Foundation. A panel of judges evaluated Mr. Jumeana's essay as one of the best from several hundred submitted by foreign undergraduates studying at U.S. universities. Mr. Jumeana is pictured above with Janice Burg-Levi, the foundation's executive director, who congratulated him on his award-winning effort

## what's going on

## EXHIBITIONS

— The Jordanian National Museum, Al Ain, Amman, Jordan. Tel: 4621724.

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## Yeltsin's Chechenya envoy kidnap suspects arrested

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen authorities Saturday placed under arrest the bodyguard and driver of President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to the Chechen republic, 24 hours after gunmen kidnapped the official, agencies said.

Russia's top Chechen negotiator said Saturday the abduction aimed to further undermine the stalled peace process between Moscow and Grozny, which won de facto independence from Russia after a bitter 21-month war.

Gunmen in military fatigues grabbed Valentin Vlasov from his car Friday near the Ingushetia village of Assinovskaya, close to the Chechen border, the first senior Russian official seized in Russia's unruly Caucasus region.

Returning to Moscow from urgent talks with Chechen officials on the kidnap, Ivan Rybkin, Mr. Yeltsin's pointman on Moscow's fraught relations with its breakaway republic, said the abduction was "a challenge" which required "an adequate response."

"The Russian president's envoy for Chechenya was abducted by people who believe a peace dialogue between Grozny and Moscow is not beneficial," Interfax cited him as saying. "We did not think that people dealing with the establishment of peace would become targets" for the kidnappers, said Mr. Rybkin, who has sent a report to Mr. Yeltsin on his talks with senior Chechen officials at Ingushetia's Sleptovskiy airport.

Chechenya and Russia's other North Caucasus republics have become a fertile ground for hostage-takers since the 21-month Chechen war of secession ended in August 1996 with de facto independence for the tiny Muslim republic.

Alexander Lebed, who as Russia's national security chief negotiated an end to the Chechen conflict in August 1996, said: "I know Vlasov well. He has done a great deal for a peaceful settlement of the Chechen problem. That is why he became a target."

Mr. Lebed, a gruff ex-paratrooper general with his

sights set on claiming the Russian presidency, said he believed the Chechen authorities were not linked to the abduction.

Mr. Rybkin said the "Chechen leadership is concerned and shocked over what happened," adding that Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov would Saturday urge Chechens to help secure Mr. Vlasov's release at a Grozny rally.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report in the Chechen capital.

Chechen prosecutors meanwhile formally arrested Mr. Vlasov's driver and bodyguard, Russian news agencies reported. Deputy Chechen Prosecutor General Magomed Magomadov told the Interfax news agency charges would be decided over the next "10-15 days."

The suspects, taken in for questioning Friday on their return to their native Chechenya following the abduction, can be held 20 days before charges are brought.

Gen. Magomadov said Mr. Vlasov's driver was being investigated for negli-

gence and his bodyguard for failing to offer resistance to the attackers.

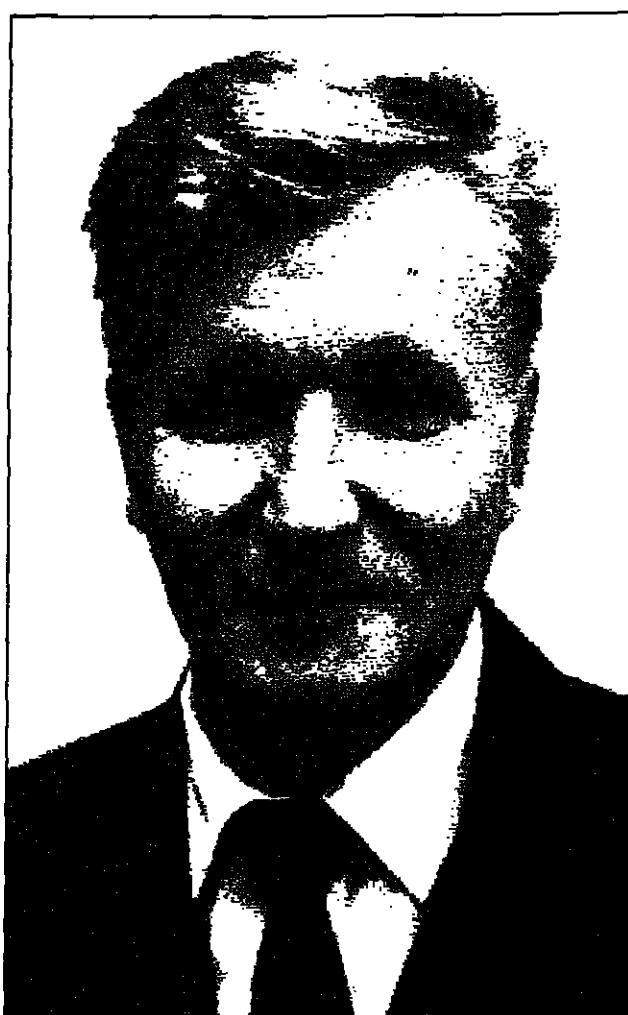
But he accused Mr. Vlasov of failing to take adequate security measures, frequently travelling with only one or two bodyguards despite repeated warnings about his safety.

"Vlasov himself also showed criminal negligence, travelling along a very dangerous route where people are periodically abducted accompanied by only one bodyguard."

Chechen "foreign minister" Movladi Udugov claimed the abduction was the work of "forces controlled by Russian special services, the same forces behind previous kidnappings."

The woeful state of fledgling police forces coupled with chronic unemployment and a flood of weapons have combined to make kidnapping a growth industry in the northern Caucasus.

Some 65 hostages including at least six foreigners are currently being held in the volatile region, according to a special Chechen anti-abduction unit.



Valentin Vlasov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy to Chechenya, was kidnapped in the breakaway region on May 1. Mr. Vlasov, shown in this October 1997 file photo, was an important figure behind the scenes in Moscow's attempts to find a lasting settlement with the secessionist Chechen leadership since Russia withdrew its troops in 1996 after nearly two years of fighting (Reuters photo)

## Grenades thrown near presidential palace in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (AFP) — Hand grenades exploded near the presidential palace Saturday in the capital of Tajikistan here in latest clashes between government troops and Islamic rebels in the former Soviet central Asian republic.

An AFP eyewitness said on-one was hurt, but few people ventured on to the streets, shops were shut and little transport was available after at least 20 government troops were killed and 80 wounded in clashes with insurgents and government troops outside Dushanbe Thursday and Friday, according to Russian television reports.

A stray shell fell in the courtyard of the Pakistani embassy Saturday, damaging the facade and breaking windows.

ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Defence ministry sources said search operations were in progress over a radius of up to 20 kilometres around Dushanbe to track down isolated small groups of Islamic fighters still around after the majority had retreated into mountain bases.

Fighting broke out Thursday between some 200 to 300 insurgents and government troops near Dushanbe. Automatic fire could still be heard Friday evening some seven kilometres east of the city.

Government military sources were quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying the Islamic fighters attacked government checkpoints and a supply convoy on a road near Kofarnikhon, east of Dushanbe.

Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic, became independent after the Soviet collapse in 1991.

A peace process was begun in June last year between its present ex-Communist leadership supported by President Boris Yeltsin's government in Moscow and Islamic insurgents to end a five-year civil war costing thousands of lives.

Yet violent incidents continue regularly in the mountainous republic bordering Afghanistan, where Islamic fighters have been operating out of rear bases.

Islamic forces still control entire regions in the east of the country, and a power-sharing deal brokered in the peace pact is only just beginning to be implemented.

Opposition leader Said Abdullo Nuri has blamed recent attacks on a breakaway Islamic armed group which has been active since the June agreement.

He denounced the clashes as "a provocation aimed at blocking the peace accords."

## FDA clears ZOCOR™ to reduce risk of first stroke, transient ischemic attack

WEST POINT, Pennsylvania

Merck & Co., Inc. has announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the Merck cholesterol-lowering drug ZOCOR™ (simvastatin, MSD) to reduce the risk of first stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA or mini-stroke) in people with high cholesterol and coronary heart disease — those who are at the highest risk for cardiovascular events.

This important new use of ZOCOR is based on an analysis of the landmark Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) which showed that people taking ZOCOR had significantly fewer strokes and TIAs compared to the group taking placebo.

"In 4S, ZOCOR reduced the risk of stroke and TIA by 28 per cent," said Terje Pedersen, M.D., 4S lead investigator and head physician at Coronary Care Unit, Aker University Hospital in Oslo, Norway.

"We have known for some time that controlling high blood pressure is essential to reducing the risk of stroke. Now we know that treatment with ZOCOR provides a powerful new weapon in battling debilitating strokes."

"This FDA approval should heighten awareness of the need to actively treat high cholesterol in patients with heart disease," said Roger S. Blumenthal, M.D., director of the Ciccarone Center for Preventative Cardiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD.

The findings that lowering cholesterol can prevent stroke, along with other advances, has prompted the National Stroke Association (NSA) to issue new Stroke Prevention Guidelines in conjunction with a panel of leading national experts.

The NSA recommends that all people know their cholesterol levels and treat high cholesterol with diet, exercise and medication to reduce the risk of stroke. In addition to high cholesterol, other risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, heart disease, smoking and obesity.

According to the NSA, stroke is the third leading cause of death in the U.S., killing 157,991 people in 1995 (the last year for which figures were available), and accounting for one in every 15 deaths.

In the U.S., someone has a stroke every minute, every 3.4 minutes someone dies of

stroke.

For those who survive, stroke is one of the leading causes of adult disability, affecting about four million Americans, as well as their families and caregivers. The landmark Framingham Heart Study found that after suffering a stroke, 31 per cent of patients require assistance, 20 per cent need help walking and 71 per cent are vocationally impaired after seven years. In economic terms, stroke-related expenses annually cost \$30 billion to the U.S. health care system.

The stroke-reduction data are the latest in a series of important clinical benefits derived from 4S, the first study to define the life-saving benefits of lowering cholesterol with ZOCOR.

In the five-year trial, involving 4,444 men and women high cholesterol and coronary heart disease, 42 per cent fewer deaths from heart disease, resulting in 30 per cent fewer deaths from any cause.

In 4S, ZOCOR was well-tolerated. ZOCOR should not be used by anyone on concomitant therapy with the tetraol-class calcium-channel blocker mibefradil, allergic to any of its components, with liver disease, or by women who are pregnant, nursing or likely to become pregnant.

Muscle pain or weakness in patients taking ZOCOR may indicate a rare but serious side effect and should be reported to their doctor. Doctors should perform blood tests to check liver function before and periodically during treatment with ZOCOR.

Despite the landmark findings of 4S and guidelines from the American Heart Association (AHA), National Cholesterol Education Programme (NCEP) and NSA calling for aggressive treatment, about 60 per cent of people who have already had a heart attack are not taking the appropriate steps to control their cholesterol.

In addition, another 16 million Americans without heart diseases who could benefit from lowering their high cholesterol to recommended levels are still going untreated.

Middle East Health News

## First Khmer Rouge refugees arrive at new Thai camp

HUAY SAMRAN, Thailand (AFP) — The first group of some 400 Khmer Rouge villagers escorted by the Thai military arrived at their new camp in northern Thailand Saturday afternoon after fleeing renewed fighting in Cambodia.

The villagers began arriving at Huay Samran reservoir some eight kilometres inside Thailand in small clusters at 3:00 p.m. local time (0800 GMT), mainly on foot and with their meagre belongings in open trucks.

They were met by a United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees official who counted them, while Thailand's provincial Red Cross provided medical treatment, mainly to children suffering from diarrhoea.

Authorities in Si Sa Ket have prepared a 40-acre fenced-off area at Huay Samran to accommodate the villagers, and have posted guards for their protection.

The Thai military said Friday that between 20,000 and 30,000 Khmer Rouge villagers crossed into Thailand to escape renewed fighting

between the guerrillas and government forces.

They said the villagers, mainly relatives of Khmer Rouge soldiers battling Cambodian government forces in the Angkor Veng area, fled across the border because they feared food and water shortages as a result of heavy fighting.

Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, who plunged their country into genocide in the 1970s, are on the verge of final defeat, according to sources close to the guerrillas.

## Dissident Zhou Guoqiang released after brief detention

BEIJING (AFP) — Beijing dissident Zhou Guoqiang said Saturday he had been freed after police briefly detained him without explanation the previous day.

He said police released him from the Xingyuanjie police station at 11:00 a.m. Friday, three hours after plainclothes officers forcefully took him away from his home without explanation.

Dissident sources had speculated that the detention aimed to prevent Mr. Zhou, an advocate of free trade unions, from staging any protests during official celebrations of international Labour Day.

"There was no particular reason — it was just to restrict my freedom," he told AFP, adding that police refrained from questioning or lecturing him about his political activities.

Police warned the dissident against leaving home on April 29, when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived in Beijing for a 48-hour visit, but his freedom of movement has now been restored.

Dissident Jiang Qisheng was also detained for several hours Thursday to prevent him from approaching Mrs. Albright, who left Beijing Friday morning.

She said that during her top-level meetings with Chinese officials she spoke "quite directly" on the need for freedom of peaceful political expression and on the "still-large number of prisoners of conscience" in the country.

Mr. Zhou has been an activist for the democratic movement in China for some 20 years, several of which he has spent in prison. In 1979 he took part in the Democracy Wall movement in Beijing together with Wei Jingsheng, an editor-in-chief of an anti-establishment magazine.

## Australian minister plays down shoot-to-kill order

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer Saturday played down shoot-to-kill orders issued against an Australian peacekeeping force in Papua New Guinea's Bougainville Island, saying there was no threat to Australian lives.

Mr. Downer said the order by Revolutionary Army Commander Francis Ona posed no threat to Australian troops or the peace process on the war-ravaged island.

The force was operating amid tight security and would not be in any danger from a threat by Mr. Ona to shoot Australian troops who enter areas under his control on Bougainville, Mr. Downer said.

Mr. Downer said the government was taking every possible precaution to protect Australian peacekeeping forces and urged Mr. Ona to join the peace process.

"The security situation on Bougainville hasn't changed in the last few weeks or even the last few days," Mr. Downer said.

"I also add that Australians don't go to parts of Bougainville where they're not invited or they're not welcome nor do the other peace monitors."

Mr. Ona, who did not attend the signing ceremony of a Bougainville peace accord Thursday, claimed Australia's motive for wanting peace was to reopen the giant Panguna copper and gold mine, which is majority owned by Rio Tinto. Canberra has denied any such motive.

"I have issued an order to shoot on sight. The Australians are not welcome on the island of Bougainville. All along the Australian gov-

ernment has contributed to this nine years of war," Mr. Ona told the Sydney Morning Herald by satellite telephone from his island stronghold.

Australian officials have said that Mr. Ona commands the loyalty of only a few hundred rebels.

Mr. Ona also said he had dismissed his deputy Joseph Kabui and the rebel's military leader Sam Kauona from their positions.

Both men were signatories to a ceasefire agreement and played key roles in the peace negotiations which were conducted under New Zealand auspices.

A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) spokesman said there would soon be around 250 Australians in the Bougainville peace-monitoring operation, which also includes monitors from New Zealand, Vanuatu and Fiji.

"At this time there's been no direct threat. We've been working in the same areas for six months and there've been no incidents. They're unarmed and they've been welcomed everywhere they've been."

"Of course you can never describe it as a situation without any risk, but to date it's been a very warm welcome," the DFAT spokesman said.

The Bougainville revolt started with a landowner campaign against the Panguna mine in 1988, which closed the mine and erupted into violence in 1989.

The rebels sought to secede from Papua New Guinea. Rio Tinto has said it would cost an estimated \$600 million to reopen Panguna but that it has no such plans in the short-term, preferring to wait for political as well as military stability to return to the island.

## At least 32 die of moonshine liquor in northern India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least 32 people have died after drinking bootleg liquor in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Saturday.

The Indian Express newspaper said the toll was likely to pass 60 with more and more people being brought to hospital and was the worst such case reported in the state. The deaths took place

at Bentolia village Thursday, the news agency said. Twenty people were taken to hospital immediately afterwards.

State government officials said the victims, including women, bought the illicit liquor from a private store and died after a late night party.

Three policemen in Bentolia were sacked for not closing down the illicit liquor store, PTI said.

## Clinton fu visits daug political su

PLO ALTO, California (AFP) — President Bill Clinton escaped the political storm in Washington here this week by visiting his daughter Chelsea in the San Francisco area.

Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton arrived Friday at the affluent city of San Francisco, where the president's daughter is completing her first year at Stanford University.

Mr. Clinton, who in recent years has shed his role as a father and returned his full attention to his duties as president, shared time with his daughter at Stanford.

He has refused Mr. Clinton's suggestion of alleged involvement in the president's private life, and for invoking executive privilege to prevent two

specialist Sidney Hillman and deputy chief of staff Lindsey O. Brown to testify before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives.

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## Clinton fundraises, visits daughter as political storm rumbles

PALO ALTO, California (AFP) — President Bill Clinton escaped the political heat in Washington here this weekend, refusing to respond to barbs from House Speaker Newt Gingrich and special prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Mr. Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived Friday at this affluent city on the San Francisco peninsula to raise money and visit with daughter Chelsea, who is completing her first year at nearby Stanford University.

Mr. Gingrich, who in recent days has shed his relative silence and resumed his partisan attacks, shared turf with the president though they did not cross paths at Stanford.

He has rebuked Mr. Clinton for stonewalling Mr. Starr's investigation of alleged misdeeds and for invoking executive privilege to prevent two senior aides — communications specialist Sidney Blumenthal and deputy counsel Bruce Lindsey — from being forced to testify before a grand jury about their conversations with the president.

"No one is above the law, including the president of the United States," Mr. Gingrich told a conservative audience at the Hoover Institution think tank located on the sprawling Stanford campus.

That goes back to the English civil war, Charles I didn't agree and he lost his head. He was very serious about this for the Anglo

Saxon world of 1650. And this is at the very centre of our concept of freedom. That is why Richard Nixon had to resign," the Republican leader said.

Mr. Starr also raised the issue of executive privilege while addressing a crowd earlier Friday in San Antonio, Texas.

"No 20th century president tested executive privilege in court until President Nixon, in what came to be known as Watergate," said Mr. Starr, speaking on the 24th anniversary of Richard Nixon's declaration that a president had the power to disregard subpoenas by invoking executive privilege.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision that a president can be subject to a subpoena led to Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974.

Thursday Mr. Starr managed to obtain the indictment of former Clinton administration official Webster Hubbell on tax fraud and took steps to bring former White House intern Monica Lewinsky before a grand jury.

The moves brought the investigation to its most intense point since charges erupted in January over whether Ms. Lewinsky was asked to commit perjury about her alleged sexual relationship with the president.

Friday Mr. Clinton spent more than an hour speaking to workers at Thermo Inc. in San Jose, California and

seemed glad to have the opportunity to temporarily get away from Washington.

"Most of all, I thank all of you for giving me a chance to leave Washington and come out and visit the real world. It's great," Mr. Clinton told several hundred workers and visitors.

Therma employees responded by praising the president and declining to address the controversies dogging him.

"I feel the way a lot of people do: If he's doing his job, he's okay with me," plumber Jacob Calero said.

After the visit to the factory, which makes air conditioning equipment for high-tech companies, Mr. Clinton went to play golf despite overcast skies and an occasional drizzle.

Mr. Clinton had three fundraising events planned this weekend, including an appearance late Friday at the house of real estate magnate Walter Shorenstein in the exclusive hillside community of Portola Valley east of Stanford.

It is Mr. Clinton's 37th trip to California, a state he continues to tap for funds.

He also was to visit the nearby home of Steven Jobs, personal computer pioneer, interim chief executive officer of Apple Computer and president of Pixar.

Much of Saturday and Sunday was set aside for private time with his family.



A woman injured in a jet-foil collision is carried from an ambulance at Princess Margaret Hospital in Hong Kong (Reuters photo)

## Over 80 hospitalised in HK jet-foil crash

HONG KONG (R) — Over 80 people were taken to hospital when a jet-foil en route to Macau crashed after hitting an underwater object near Hong Kong's new airport, government radio said Saturday.

The deputy district police commander at Chek Lap Kok, Gary Wilson, said the airport's rescue centre had helped in evacuation efforts.

"All the rescue facilities were here ready and waiting. The fire services sent out two large rescue boats and they picked up a total of 207 people...

many of them were sent to hospital, the exact figure was 86," the report quoted Mr. Wilson as saying.

Medical Superintendent Leung Lai-Kwong of the Princess Margaret Hospital said 12 patients were admitted to the accident and emergency department of his hospital.

"All are in stable and satisfactory conditions," he said. "Some have injuries to legs and arms, some have been admitted to wards with fractured limbs," he was quoted as saying.

## Serb-Albanian fighting flares in Kosovo

TURICEVAC, Serbia (R) — Fighting flared inside Kosovo's Drenica region Saturday as Serbian police backed by armour and heavy weapons traded fire with ethnic Albanians defending their villages.

Small arms, heavy machine-gun and mortar fire echoed across rolling hills about 50 km west of Pristina, capital of the southern Serbian province whose Albanian majority want independence.

Reporters spotted refugees moving on foot from Stupelji, a village near Klin, which they said had been attacked by Serb forces at midnight, causing most of the 25 families there to flee.

The body of Agim Emin Emini, 35, lay under a white sheet at his family's bullet-pocked home as relatives prepared to bury him at sundown to avoid police sniper fire.

Villagers said he was shot dead Friday morning when police armoured personnel carriers advanced on the village and opened fire on the seven houses of the Emini family.

The top right side of Agim Emini's head was blown away in what villagers said was a hail of gunfire directed at their houses, some of which were occupied by women and children hiding from the police.

The attack on Turicevac evidently began after Serb forces attempted to advance on neighbouring Racanica and were fired upon by villagers and driven back.

Reporters Saturday saw 53-year-old Rifat Snakaj leading eleven children from Stupelji to Obria along a rutted dirt road in an attempt to find safety from the Serb attack which had begun in the middle of the night.

"We have been walking for five hours. We are not terrorising anyone, we are defending our homes. How can we be terrorists then they are killing us in our houses?"

Mr. Snakaj was wearing two hand grenades in the pockets of his shirt and a black fisherman's cap on which the initials KLA had been embroidered in red thread.

The letters stand for the Kosovo Liberation Army, which is waging a guerrilla campaign for independence for the province, where more than 100 people have been killed since a crackdown by Serb police in March.

Women residents of Turicevac said police came into the cluster of eight houses Friday and threatened to kill any male over the age of 17.

The women said the man who spoke to them was in civilian clothes but spoke in Albanian and was escorted by a large number of police with camouflage paint on their faces, bullet-proof vests and battle helmets, as well as automatic weapons.

A major police checkpoint which occupied the main road running from Srbica to Klin and which overlooked the village of Turicevac had been abandoned Saturday morning.

All the sandbags which had protected gun emplacements had been removed. Ethnic Albanians in the area said the Serbs had relocated their forces further west along the road.

## Hong Kong plans tougher measures to fight copyright pirates

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong government is considering clamping down on copyright piracy with tougher measures, including confiscation of the assets of those convicted of such crimes, a government spokesman said Saturday.

The tougher measures could also include closure orders on premises, including shops and factories, which have been engaged in intellectual property rights piracy-related business so that they could not be sold or leased out for a period of time, he said.

The government also planned to explore the feasibility of setting up a copyright title verification database and intro-

ducing some form of legal liability against end-users who purchased pirated optical discs.

Washington put Hong Kong on a trade watch list last year due to its copyright piracy record, but since then the government has significantly stepped up the fight against counterfeit goods.

In the first three months of this year alone the authorities seized 2.5 million fake compact discs, compared with 4.5 million discs for the whole of 1997.

In view of the imminent announcement of the U.S. Special 301 report, which could lead to trade sanctions, Brian Chau, secretary for trade and industry, said the govern-

ment would be most disappointed if Hong Kong were retained on the watch list because such action would be unreasonable.

Mr. Chau told reporters late Friday that Hong Kong was not pandering to U.S. threats of sanctions when the government recently stepped up action against intellectual property rights piracy.

He criticised the U.S. refusal to delist as being "too high handed," adding "we do not require foreign governments to tell us what to do."

Mr. Chau said the tougher measures were considered in order to save Hong Kong's international reputation and the interests of its people.

## Indonesian students clash with security forces as protests mount

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian students clashed with security forces in two towns Saturday and three demonstrators were injured as protesters across the country stepped up their demands for reform, witnesses said.

Thousands of students held rallies in universities in at least five main towns on Java and Sumatra, a day after President Suharto issued a warning to those demanding constitutional reform.

Violence broke out between students and security forces in Medan, the capital of North Sumatra, and in Jakarta. More than 1,000 students gathered at the private Nomenzen University in central Medan and clashed with security forces while attempting to take their protest onto the streets, lawyer Butar-Butar of the Legal Aid Institute said.

A military police jeep was torched during the clash but there were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests, Butar-Butar said.

Security forces prevented more than 100 students from various universities who assembled at the Academy for Foreign Languages in central Jakarta from marching to the nearby Indonesia state university to join a protest rally.

At least three students were injured as police used batons and teargas to disperse them. The students retreated into the campus.

Some 500 students of the Higher School for Informatics and Computer Management in Cileduk, south Jakarta, rallied at their campus to press for immediate political reforms, a witness said. At the Indonesia university, over 2,000 gathered in front of the medicine faculty to listen to a free speech forum to commemorate Education Day and to press for reforms.

They included scores of students from several other universities in town, some 20 highschool students, some university staff and prominent sociologist Selo Sumartono.

Hundreds of other students from other universities milled with hundreds of onlookers outside the university fence as they were unable to enter the campus.

More than 100 members of the security forces, including some military police, cordoned off the university to prevent the students from moving off the campus.

The students said they had planned to march to the monument of the country's independence proclamation, about a

kilometre southeast of Indonesia University.

In Yogyakarta, central Java, some 6,000 students gathered for a protest rally in front of the Gajah Mada state university's main hall, a university staff member said.

"They have now dispersed but at one point there were over 6,000 students gathered here," said the staff, who identified himself as Agung.

He added that hundreds of

students from the university's master's programme also marched on the streets of campus to demand reforms before they joined the gathering in front of the hall.

In Solo, some 60 kilometres northeast of Yogyakarta, some 200 students gathered at the main gate of the 11 March University to listen to a free speech forum, said Slamet, a member of the university's administration department.

In Surabaya, the capital of East Java, some 3,000 students held a free speech forum at the front gate of the Surabaya Institute of Technology, a witness said.

The students heard representatives of the population, including taxi and pedicab drivers, housewives and high school students, speak about their suffering during the current economic crisis.

In Padang, West Sumatra,

some 1,000 students of the Bung Hatta University marched to the Lolong hero cemetery amid tight security.

The authorities closed the long avenue leading to the cemetery to traffic to allow the march to proceed, a resident said.

The students carried posters and banners, most calling for lower prices and reforms but several also calling for President Suharto to resign.

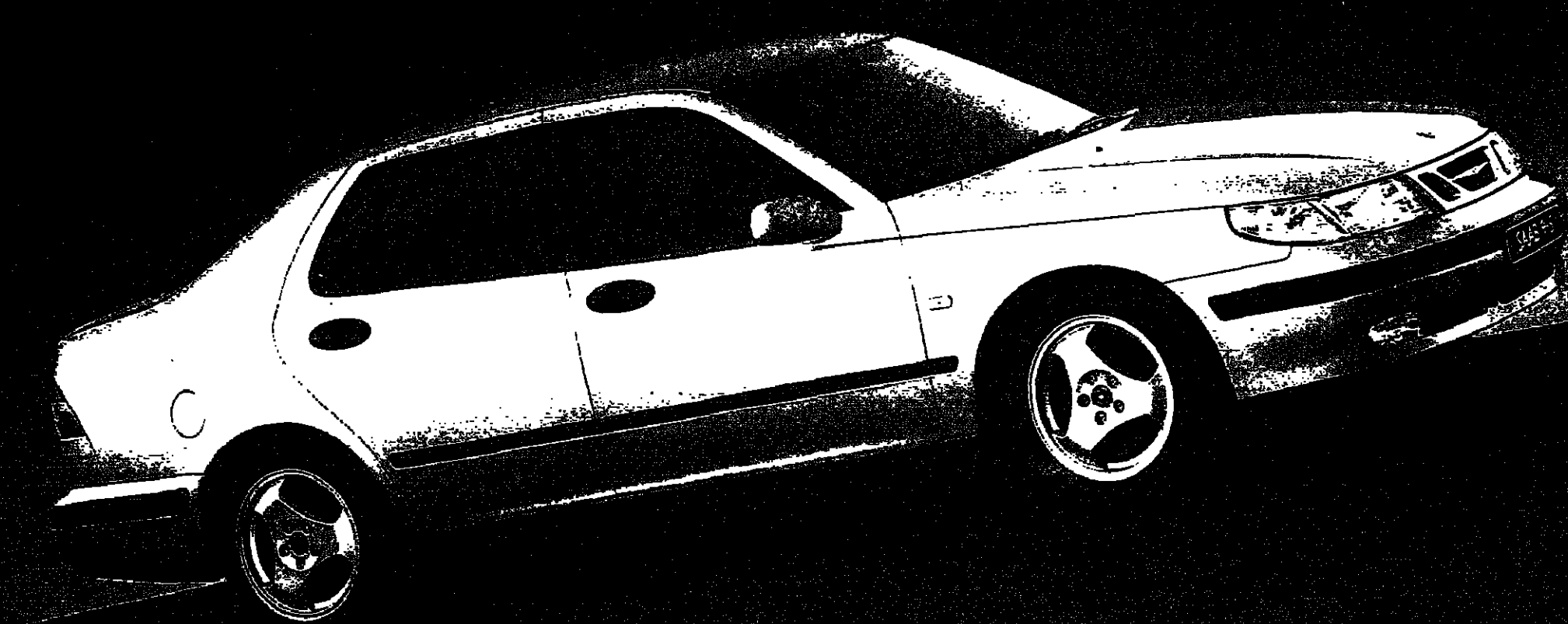
Building a performance aircraft is all about the balance of opposing forces. Velocity competes with inertia. Thrust with gravity. Heart with cold. The same applies to a performance car. A suspension system

comfortable enough to iron out the roughest road must have a chassis firm enough to cradle you around the corners. An engine powerful enough to produce exhilarating mid-range torque must have the handling to

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There should be no forces outside your control.



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## Iraqi economy has gone to the dogs

By Patrick Cockburn  
in Baghdad

FRIDAY IS the day of the dog market in Baghdad. It takes place in the Souq Al Gazil, a stretch of empty ground beside the main road on the edge of the main market, which echoes with the sound of several hundred barking dogs from early in the morning.

They come in all sizes from dapper terriers to grim German Shepherds. Their owners mostly are selling them as guard dogs. These are popular among Iraqis because of the increase in robberies and theft as the country gets poorer as a result of sanctions.

"Nimr is a clever dog," said a man, including the pugnacious hound beside him. "He will tear a piece out of any enemy who gets near your home. But if he sees somebody whom he knows is a friend of his owner he will never attack him."

The expression on Nimr's face did not give one complete confidence in his friend-or-foe identification system, but he looked as if he was worth the 25,000 Iraqi dinars (£15) being asked for him.

Iraqis do not usually keep dogs as indoor pets, but in one corner of the Souq Al Gazil a group of better dressed owners were disposing of poodles and dachshunds who were clearly not cut out to guard anybody.

The most popular pets for sale are pigeons, doves, parrots and budgies. But in the middle of the souq is an entire street filled with people buying and selling goldfish along with fish tanks and ornaments.

"When Iraqis want to enjoy themselves on a Friday they go to the markets," said an Iraqi friend. From early in the morning they pour into Shurjah, the central market area on the east bank of the Tigris.

Since sanctions were imposed eight years ago the markets have grown as Iraqis try to survive by selling and buying small quantities of goods. Nothing exposes the real poverty of the country better. People sit for hours in the sun trying to sell a broken electric fire or some cracked plates.

**Since sanctions were imposed eight years ago the markets have grown as Iraqis try to survive by selling and buying small quantities of goods. Nothing exposes the real poverty of the country better.**

There is also the continuing need for spare parts. The streets are full of cars, but none have been imported since 1990. They are cheap to run because 60 litres of gasoline — the only item not in short supply or very expensive — costs just £2. In one morning two cars I was travelling in broke down. The first had a broken fuel pump. The second started emitting clouds of smoke or steam from the engine. In each case the only remedy for the driver was to go immediately to Shurjah market and try to find the spare part.

There are people with money in Baghdad. In the bird market a merchant showed us two hawks for hunting, each tethered to the stump of a tree. He said:

"The first comes from Kurdistan and I will sell him for 750,000 dinars (£450) the other is from Iran and will cost you one-and-a-quarter million dinars (£750)." He seemed confident he would find somebody to buy them.

The saddest place in the whole of Shurjah market is probably the streets where Iraqi intellectuals come to sell their books. Many are laid out on the pavement off Al Rashid Street. Some were obviously once part of somebody's university course, like Henry IV Part One or a battered Penguin classic edition of Sophocles.

Baghdad does not show the same signs of poverty as Beirut did in the civil war, when there were obvious symptoms of the collapse of government. Rubbish either rotted where it was left or was consumed in bonfires which burned all over the city. But Baghdad still works. Cars obey traffic lights, though there are frequent electricity black-outs. There are also signs of better times ahead with more foreigners turning up, looking for business. There are pilgrims, mostly Lebanese and Iranian, going to the great shrines at Kerbala and Najaf. There are hopes, perhaps misplaced, that the crisis and near war in February brought the end of sanctions nearer.

But this does not do much good to the mass of Iraqis. The collapse of the immunisation programme means diseases like polio, tuberculosis, meningitis and measles have become common. Most telling of all are the beggars on the streets. Last week, as we drove into Baghdad, three girls, all beggars and all under eight, launched themselves at our still moving car and clung onto the doorhandles and wing mirror, allowing themselves to be dragged along the road until we could stop and pay them off.

— The Independent

## The myth of the Zionist anti-Fascism

Les mythes fondateur de la politique israélienne (The Fundamental Myths of Israeli Politics)  
By Roger Garaudy  
Samizdat 1996

Editor's note: This is the second and final part of the original French text of Roger Garaudy's book.

ROGER GARAUDY frankly admits that when World War II broke out almost all the Jewish organisations including Weizman himself came to the side of the Allies but the German Zionists adopted the reverse attitude. The latter were neither anti-fascist nor anti-Nazi. From 1933 to 1941 the German Zionists followed a compromise policy and even later collaborated with Hitler. Although the Nazi authorities were persecuting German Jews by kicking them out of public functions, they nevertheless entertained a dialogue with the leaders of the German Zionists, treated them favourably and distinguished them from the "fundamentalist" Jews.

The accusation of collusion with the Nazi authorities cannot be addressed to the overwhelming majority of the Jews. Indeed some of them served in Spain from 1936 to 1939 in the International Brigades against the Spanish fascists. This accusation can be levelled against the organised strong minority of Zionist leaders whose sole preoccupation was to create a Jewish state. Chaim Weizman and other Zionist leaders declared war on Germany. This declaration however created a problem for the German Jews as they were consequently interned in the concentration camps for being considered under the jurisdiction of a people at war with Germany just as the United States of America interned its own citizens of Japanese origin when it declared war on Japan.

The object of the Zionists was not to save Jews but to create a Jewish state in Palestine. Ben Gurion stated frankly to the Zionist Labour leaders that: "If I were to know that it is possible to save all the Jewish children of Germany by sending them to England, or only half of them could be brought to Israel, I will choose the second solution, because we should take into consideration not only the lives of those children but also the

history of the people of Israel. "(Quoted from Y'von Gelbner book, "Zionist Policy and the Fate of European Jewry"). In the opinion of Ben Gurion the task of the Zionists was not to save the "remnants" of Israel who were in Europe, but to save the land of Israel for the Jewish people. Again the historian Tom Segev says in his book "The Seventh Million" that the rescuing of the Jews of Europe was not a priority to the leaders. In their eyes the founding of the state is of prime importance.

Garaudy quotes many other Jewish authorities to the effect that what mattered to the Zionist leaders was the founding of the state of Israel and not the saving of the Jews of Europe from the Holocaust.

On the other hand Garaudy produces ample authentic evidence on the collaboration of the German Zionists with Nazi Germany. Indeed the Zionist organisations of the German Jews enjoyed legal existence in Germany up to 1938, five years after the accession of Hitler to power while the econom-

my life I participated in many painful conversations but I have never felt before so miserable and ashamed as during those two hours of meeting. I felt in my inner soul that Benès was right."

Eichman's trial in Jerusalem revealed in part at least the exchange between Zionist Jews useful to the creation of the Jewish state (rich personalities, technicians, young men useful to the Jewish army) with the less advantaged mass of Jews who were abandoned to their fate in the hands of Hitler.

In her book "Eichman à Jérusalem" Hanna Arendt, one of the eminent defenders of the Jewish cause, has shown the passivity and complicity of the "Jewish Councils" with the Nazis, two-thirds of which were made up of Zionists.

According to Isaiah Trunk 50 per cent of the Jews could have been saved if they had not followed the instructions of the Jewish Councils (See "Judenrat" by Isaiah Trunk).

The Zionist leaders contacted and collaborated with the fascists, Garaudy says. Chaim Weizman

**Garaudy quotes many other Jewish authorities to the effect that what mattered to the Zionist leaders was the founding of the state of Israel and not the saving of the Jews of Europe from the Holocaust**

ic cooperation between German Zionist leaders and the German government started in 1933 and continued up to 1941, that is to say eight years after Hitler came to power, and thus the economic boycott against Nazi Germany was broken. Naum Goldman, president of the World Zionist Organisation, mentions in his "Autobiography" his dramatic meeting in 1935 with Edward Benès, then minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovakia.

In that meeting Edward Benès rebuked the Zionists for having broken the boycott against Germany by concluding commercial agreements with it and the refusal of the World Zionist Organisation to organise the resistance against Nazism. Goldman said: "During

and Nahum Goldman met with Mussolini in 1923 and in 1927 respectively. The duce promised to help in the creation of the Jewish state.

Rudolf Kastner, vice-president of the Zionist Organisation, negotiated with Eichman on the following basis: If Eichman allows the departure to Palestine of 1684 Jews (capitalists, technicians, military people) who are useful to the building of the Jewish state, Kastner promised that he would make the 460,000 Hungarian Jews believe that they would not be deported to Auschwitz, but that they would simply be transferred. As is well-known Kastner did not act alone but with the agreement of the Zionist leaders, some of

whom were in 1955 at the time of Eichman's trial in Jerusalem, members of the Israeli government. In order to apparently prevent Kastner from telling the truth, he was assassinated on the steps of the Law Courts buildings. Afterwards the Israeli government petitioned the Supreme Court for his rehabilitation which it did accordingly.

The Zionist political collaboration with the Nazis reached its peak in 1941 when the most extremist Zionist gang led by Abraham Stern and after his death by a triumvirate of which Yitzhak Shamir was a member "committed an unpardonable crime from a moral point of view for calling for an alliance with Hitler, with Nazi Germany, against Britain. (See the book "Ben Gurion, the Armed Prophet" by Bar Zohar). One of the historic leaders of the Stern Gang Israel Eldad has affirmed in an article published in the Yediot Aharonot dated Feb. 4, 1983, the authenticity of the negotiations between his group and official representatives of Nazi Germany. He frankly admitted that his colleagues had explained to the Nazis that there was an identity of interest between the New Order in Europe as conceived by the Germans and the aspirations of the Jewish people in Palestine who are represented by the fighters for the freedom of Israel.

Roger Garaudy has painstakingly proved without a shadow of doubt by relying on indubitable and authenticated documents and on books written by unbiased Jewish historians, that the Zionist leaders had in fact fully collaborated with the Nazis and the fascists even at the height of World War II. Their sole aim and object was not to save the Jews as a whole from the Nazis and consequently from the so-called Holocaust but to build a strong Jewish state. Their scheme consisted of choosing Jews with capital or technicians or military expertise etc. for immigration to Palestine and leaving to their fate and destiny the underdogs or the less advantaged Jews such as the old people, the sick, the handicapped and the penniless who would be a burden on the state of Israel rather than bastions for it.

Pascal B. Karmy

## Women candidates for Parliament evaluate their election experience

By Dr. Josi Salem-Pickartz,

MANY WILL remember the hopes they had that in the parliamentary elections of November 1997, more women would be successful than in the previous ones. Although some political observers and analysts were not very optimistic from the beginning, disappointment was widespread when it became clear that none of the 17 women candidates had won a seat in the Lower House of Parliament. Several studies are currently under way to analyse the election results, yet not much effort has so far been put into understanding the interplay of all the factors which made women candidates fail.

Learning from women candidates' experiences is the goal of a participatory research project which is currently conducted in close cooperation between the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Al Kutba Institute for Human Development, the former women candidates and their campaign managers. Between April and June 1998, three 2-day workshops will be held during which the participants will analyse and evaluate the general socio-economic and political context in which the elections took place, specific features of their constituencies which influenced the design and implementation of their election campaign, the strength and weaknesses of their programmes, the support and the obstacles which they experienced during the campaign period, as well as the final voting results. Besides performing a political analysis, which will come up with recommendations how to strengthen women's position on political life, up to the parliamentary elections in 2001, the workshops serve to generate comprehensive information which will later be published in a book. The project also includes expert input and takes into account all available data about the parliamentary elections.

Petra was found a suitable location for the first workshop, which took place on April 22 and 23. This meeting focused on the general, local and personal factors which influenced women's decision to run for Parliament and the preparation of their election campaigns. In general, it was felt that holding the elections during



Four of 1997's women candidates attend a pre-election rally (from right) Laila Faisal, Aysha Razem-Khawaja, Fardous Masri, and Toujan Faisal (photo by Rana Hussein)

an intense — and until now unresolved — public dispute about the election law and its administration, reflected negatively on the seriousness and depth of both the campaigning and election phase.

With minor exceptions, the women candidates had a long personal history as NGO activists in social and community development, and/or were intensely confronted with the needs of their people in their professional work as lawyers, writers, journalists, nurses etc. Relying on the reputation they had built through this work, the women set out to conquer the larger political arena, determined to achieve improvement for the Jordanian people. Very few women were affiliated with political parties.

Each candidate was aware that she was pioneering. All women found strong support from their husbands and immediate families, who, in most cases, became intensively involved in the election campaign through their personal and material contributions. However, their tribes all refused to promote them. Some candidates received limited financial support from a special fund of the Jordanian National Committee for Women or contributions from individual donors, yet most could only fall back on their own family's money.

The financial expenses of the women's election campaigns differed

greatly from less than JD3,000 to JD45,000. The logistical backup of the campaigns also varied considerably from a fully equipped office with secretaries to a typewriter and a handful of volunteers.

In designing the content of their campaigns, the candidates used a variety of approaches, like studying the specific needs of their constituencies and trying to respond to the attitudes and expectations of their people, emphasising primarily on tribal issues, or standing up for universal political values.

This first workshop was a good exercise in practical democracy. As the women candidates came from very different cultural, educational and political backgrounds, tolerance towards different values and opinions was a must in order to make the workshop a success. With time, an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation developed, and all participants insisted on having every woman speak on every subject. Therefore, the two work days were rather long; however, at the end of the second day everybody left with inspiration and a sense of having learnt much from each other.

The writer is a founder of Al Kutba Institute for Human Development. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

### BritishBank Foundation Scholarship



The BritishBank Foundation is pleased to offer one scholarship for MA studies in Heritage Management at the Ironbridge Institute, University of Birmingham, during the 1998-99 academic year.

The Heritage Management course at the Ironbridge Institute starts on 29 September 1998 and is designed to train professionals with the skills required to identify a heritage resource, ensure that it is cared for, made accessible, and passed on to future generations. It is designed for people working in, or planning to work in, museums, historic properties or cultural landscapes.

The BritishBank Foundation is looking for a scholar with a record of excellence, either professional or academic, who will use his/her studies in the UK in the application of their work in Jordan. Priority is given to candidates with excellent command of English working in archaeology, planning, tourism or architecture. Candidates should, preferably, be under the age of 40.

Application forms along with detailed information on the scholarship, the Heritage Studies course at the Ironbridge Institute, as well as on completing the form can be collected from Manager Personal Banking, BritishBank, Jabal Hussein branch or the British Council, Jabal Amman, during the period 28 April - 11 May 1998. The deadline for receiving completed applications is 17 May 1998.

Any submitted documents cannot be reclaimed and must therefore be a photocopy and not an original.

Short listed candidates will be invited for an interview and the successful candidate advised by 10 June 1998.

BritishBank Foundation, Amman







# Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

## Jordan Steel generates JD1.37m net profit after boosting sales to JD14.15m

**\*\* JORDAN STEEL Company is distributing JD1.05 to shareholders following the approval of the general assembly to grant them a seven per cent return on their investment. The cash dividend was proposed by the board of directors as a result of posting a JD1.37 million net profit last year compared to only JD338,000 in 1996. By taking into consideration JD889,000 of retained earnings, the net profit before allocation stood at JD2.26 million (JD1.76 million in 1996).**

During 1997, which marked the end of experimental production and the start of commercial operation, the company boosted sales by JD10.11 million to JD14.15 million after deducting the sales tax. Board chairman Mudar Badran told the shareholders that sales during the first three months of this year have reached 14,000 tonnes. He described the volume as good compared to 56,000 tonnes of sales for the whole of 1997.

Mr. Badran said the company intensified its commercial and marketing activities in 1997 by contracting as many merchants, contractors and consultants as possible to familiarise them with the technical specifications and high quality of the reinforced steel that Jordan Steel produces. "Such a step has helped us increase our sales and give the company a larger share of the local market," he emphasised.

The chairman told the general assembly that negotiations were taking place with other steel companies in the Kingdom to specify a quota for what each firm can sell in the local market in accordance with the volume of production and capital invested. Noting that small companies were facing closure, he expected an understanding to be reached soon between the firms to enable each of them to obtain a specific quota to sell its products in the local market.

Mr. Badran put great emphasis on the Iraqi and Palestinian markets for the company's exports as part of the firm's drive to open outside markets in Arab countries. He said Jordan Steel is continuing contacts with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to facilitate the entry of its products to the Palestinian markets after a recent stoppage due to Israeli hindrances. The chairman also highlighted the importance of the Iraqi market describing it as "strategic".

The annual report showed that the company's fixed assets totalled JD18 million at the end of last year and that the receivables have risen from JD0.45 million in 1996 to JD1.39 million in 1997 (AI Ra'i + AI Dustour + AI Aswaq).

## Jordan seen needing thousands of trained professionals in hotel business next year

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the number of hotels sprouting all over the Kingdom, experts believe that by next year Jordan will need a minimum of 8,000 trained professionals to serve an estimated 5,000 new hotel rooms.

More than ever now, experts see Jordan needing institutes to train personnel in hotel work, tour guidance, and tourism in general.

In this regard, the Jordan Hospitality and Tourism Education Company (JHTEC) has been working hard over the past two years on renovating the Amoun College for Hospitality and Tourism Education and its adjoining hotel.

After spending JD 1.5 million on renovations on both the hotel and college, the JHTEC hopes that facilities will be in full function

by June and September respectively to turn the hotel into one of a four-star standard and fully staffed by college trainees.

"The main intention was to lease the facilities of the Amoun College for Hospitality and Tourism Education to upgrade facilities, promote the standard of education, and to serve the new hotels coming up in the country," said JHTEC President Michel Nazzal.

Plans are underway for a duty-free shop to be housed within the hotel's commercial and administrative sections. "JHTEC and the Jordan Duty Free Shops Company agreed on this venture. It will be open to tourists and diplomats," said JHTEC General Manager Mu'taz Saudi.

For the time being, there are 32 students taking courses in this semester's Food Production and Service, course. The college offers diplomas cover-

ing four semesters of training in kitchen education, service and sales, front office and house-keeping, and in administration. Short term courses are also offered in the same fields and for a period of three months.

"These short courses are to provide the market with the general requirements for all the new hotels coming up," Mr. Nazzal told the Jordan Times.

The college also offers training in tour guidance, hotel work and tourism in general. Enrolment is open to non-Jordanians as well. In September the College is expected to take in 300 students, some of which are from Saudi Arabia and other neighbouring countries.

Prior to being accepted for the diploma degree, students have to pass a "human behaviour" interview.

"Training in hotel work

means learning all aspects of the trade. In this business, a person works all the way up to the top, and so, the person must be ready to dust floors, clean plates, and entertain guests," Mr. Saudi told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Nazzal admitted to having had a problem with finding trainers but a French team will be coming to take over such a task in addition to professionals from Egypt and Lebanon.

Mr. Nazzal, who is also the president of the Jordan Hotel Association, said that the French government has allocated half a million Jordanian dinars in kind contribution to activate this project.

For the past four years, a group of French consultants have been working on revamping the college and they have proposed plans involving the private sector.

A French-Jordanian financial protocol will pro-

vide finance for the purchase of kitchen equipment for the school.

"This amount will be used to refurbish and upgrade the main kitchen which had been built according to French specifications and designs," said Mr. Saudi.

Among the various other facilities is the "Diplomat Room" which offers training in protocol to foreign ministry employees going to work abroad.

Female diplomats residing in the Kingdom are also offered the facilities of this room as an introduction to Jordan's traditional foods.

JHTEC, a non-profit organisation, took over the administration of the Amoun college and hotel two years ago. Capitalised at JD1 million, the government owns half of the company's shares and the remaining 50 per cent is owned by 17 private sector hotel companies.

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

#### Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Prices as at 2/05/98 19:31

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7925	0.6010	1.4810	133.30	1.4310	1765.10	2.0178	5.9919
DE Mark	0.5579	-	0.3350	0.8318	74.35	0.7981	984.44	1.1258	3.3423
GB Sterling	1.6840	2.9835	-	2.4810	221.86	2.3812	2937.13	3.3676	9.9705
CH Franc	0.6707	120.14	0.4025	-	89.36	0.9691	1183.04	135.24	4.0160
JP Yen	0.0075	1.3442	0.4804	1.1181	-	1.0731	13.24	151.32	4.4934
CA Dollar	0.6888	1.2916	0.4225	1.0566	1.07	-	1270.80	1.4551	4.3265
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0153	0.3402	0.0845	1325.91	0.8105	-	11.43	3.3938
NL Guilder	0.4856	88.79	0.2975	73.88	66.01	0.7088	874.33	-	2.9681
FR Franc	0.1668	0.2991	0.1002	24.5794	22.22	0.2388	33.67	33.6700	-

#### Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7503	0.3770	3.6398	0.3050	3.6727	1615.25	3.3890
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2896	0.5317	5.1337	0.4301	5.1801	2137.17	4.7800
Saudi Riyal	0.2688	0.1891	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0813	0.98	404.03	0.9037
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8806	9.9477	-	9.65	0.8089	9.74	4019.23	8.9894
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0838	1.01	416.30	0.9311
Kuwait Dinar	3.2792	2.3250	12.2981	1.2363	11.94	-	12.04	4968.85	0.9311
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0225	0.9910	0.0830	-	412.57	0.9228
Lebanese/1000	0.86	0.4679	2.4750	0.2488	2.4021	0.2013	2.4238	-	2.2366
Egyptian	0.2981	0.2082	1.1066	0.1112	1.0740	0.0900	1.0837	447.11	-

#### Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	14.67	13.88
W. Texas	16.21	15.52
Bonny	14.67	13.88
Dubai	12.90	12.48
UL Gas	158.00	166.00

#### Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4781	0.16024	0.39784	36.5568
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48819	0.16363	0.40624	36.3082
KW Dinar	3.2792	5.87889	1.97083	4.89237	437.264
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.75511	1.59413	3.95726	353.732
CY Pound	1.8956	3.3979	1.1385	2.8263	252.684

#### Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	302.45	302.95
Silver (oz's)	6.13	6.16
Platinum (oz's)	393.5	395.5
AL (3 Months)	1435	1438
CU (3 Months)	1870	1874
Zinc (3 Months)	1108	1112
Lead (3 Months)	589	591
NI (3 Months)	5600	5620

#### Libor Fixing

Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.6641	5.7422	5.8359	5.9609
GBP	7.3802	7.4427	7.4427	7.3958
JPY	0.6354	0.6979	0.7292	0.7500
DEM	3.6875	3.8229	3.9271	4.1146
FRF	3.5449	1.6979	1.8229	2.0104
CHF	1.5729	3.6563	3.7559	3.9883
ITL	5.4190	5.1410	4.8310	-

#### Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	137	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1912	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	282.2	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	91	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	28.44	Spot
Tea (std/kg)	140	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	410	Spot

#### \* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1781	1.184
DE Mark	0.3941	0.3961
CH Franc	0.4736	0.478
FR Franc	0.1176	0.1182
JP Yen	0.5348	0.5375
NL Guilder	0.3504	0.3522
IT Lira	0.399	0.401

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## Business urges OECD to adopt minimum standards for management

PARIS (AFP) — The business sector has urged industrial countries to adopt minimum international standards to ensure companies publish full information about their financial positions in the wake of the Asian financial crisis.

"The current crisis in East Asian economies is generating considerable discussion about failed corporate governance practices relating to lending and borrowing," the OECD's Business Sector Advisory Group (BSAG) said in a report on corporate governance.

The Asian crisis "provides a stark example" of what happens when companies are found to have invested heavily at high risk in such a situation without fully informing investors of their

position — the investors stop investing, the report said.

The problem is particularly worrying because investors increasingly rely on the companies they invest in to take action themselves to establish a structure which will "provide actual accountability and responsibility to investors and lenders."

The BSAG was set up by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996 to advise the organisation on improving the way companies' operations are organised and monitored. It comprises corporate experts and businessmen from the industrialised countries.

The report urged the OECD's 29-member countries to draw up minimum international standards of

corporate governance, "designed to promote fairness, transparency, accountability and responsibility."

It also recommended a voluntary code of "best practices designed to improve the board's ability to be responsible and accountable to shareholders."

In addition, it said, the OECD should establish common principles for companies' disclosure of information about their financial

performance, ownership structure and corporate governance system, ensuring that such information is "clear, consistent and comparable" from one company or country to another.

But it warned that government regulations, which are by their nature a "powerful and potentially rigid tool" should set a minimum framework, and not hem in companies to the point where they are unable to

adapt rapidly to a competitive global marketplace.

"The design of corporate governance relationships and practices should be left to market forces," the report said, while the role of outside regulation is to establish an environment "that allows competition and market forces to work so that corporations can succeed in generating long-term economic gain."

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# Utah shoot down Rockets to stay alive in playoffs

HOUSTON (AFP) — The Utah Jazz kept alive their hopes of reaching the National Basketball Association finals for a second straight year Friday with a 93-71 victory over the Houston Rockets.

Karl Malone collected 29 points as the Jazz forced the Rockets into one of their worst playoff efforts. They also forced a fifth game in Salt Lake City to decide the best-of-five Western Conference first-round series, now tied at two games each.

One loss from elimination, the Jazz overcame a slow start with superb defense and a tremendous job by their bench. The Jazz held the Rockets without a basket for nearly nine minutes and the reserves accounted for all but five points as the Jazz outscored the Rockets 20-4 in the fourth quarter.

Bryon Russell and Shandon Anderson added 15 points apiece for top-seeded Utah, which finally made Houston look old.

The Jazz are 37-6 at the Delta Center, including a loss in the best-of-five series opener.

Hakeem Olajuwon again led the Rockets with 27 points but got no help. Despite getting off to a quick start, Houston set a franchise playoff record for fewest points in a half, managing just 29 after intermission, and tied the club playoff low for points in a game.

In the Eastern Conference, the Charlotte Hornets earned a shot at five-time champions Chicago with a 91-82 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Anthony Mason had play-off career highs of 29 points and 14 rebounds for Charlotte, leading a fourth quarter surge with 13 points.

Glen Rice scored 10 of his 26 points in the third quarter, when the Hornets climbed back into the game.

"We have such great talent that different people step up every night," Mason said. "Tonight just happened to be my night."

Charlotte acquired Mason and Rice for former Hornets Larry Johnson and Alonzo Mourning, two players who disgraced themselves with other teams on Thursday.

Johnson, of New York, and Miami's Mourning, threw punches at each other Thursday with just one second left in New York's Game Four victory at Madison Square Garden.

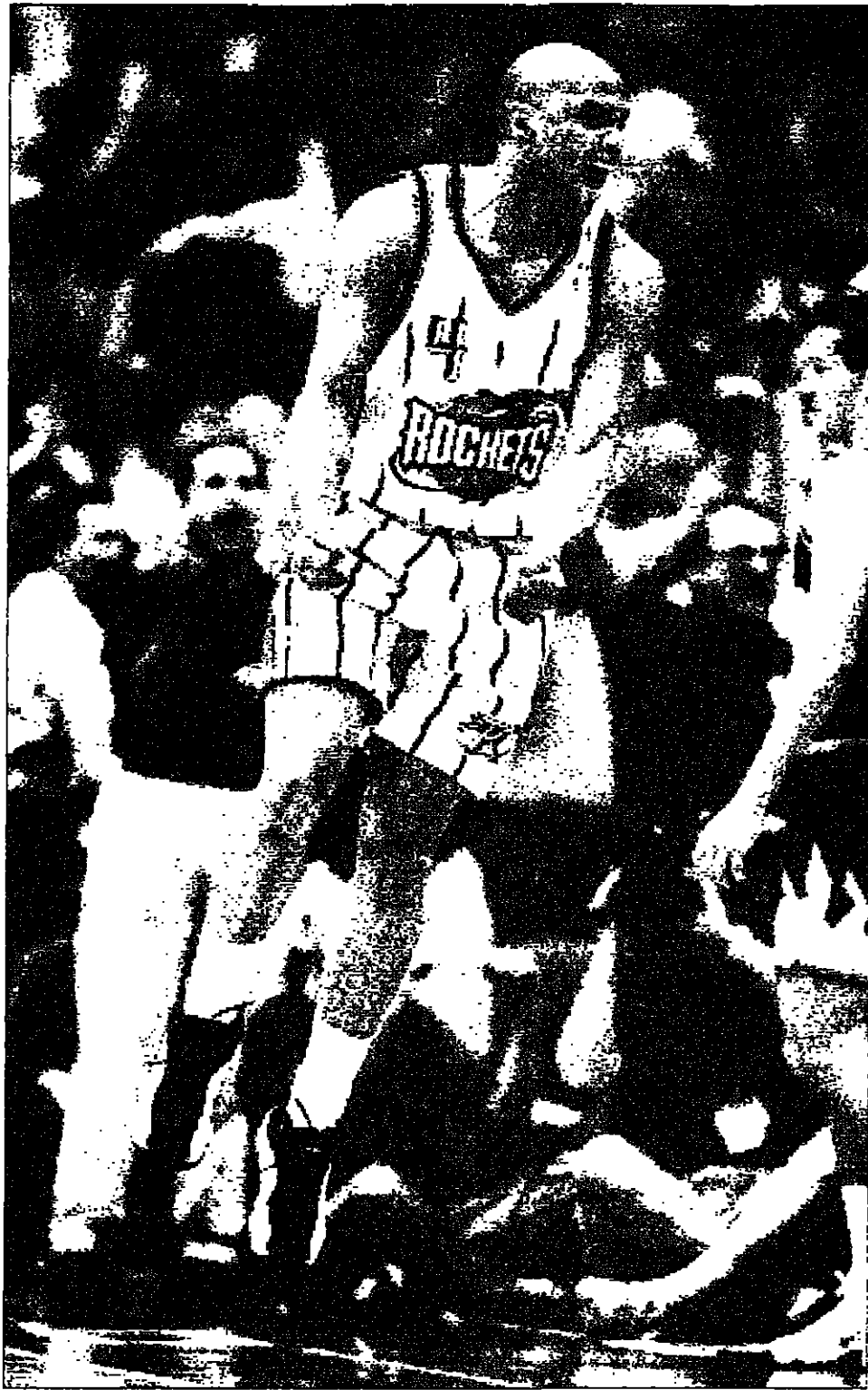
On Friday, the NBA suspended Johnson and Mourning two games each for the fight, so that both will miss the crucial Game Five and one will miss the first game of the conference semi-finals.

Mason and Rice, meanwhile, advance to face the two-time defending champion Bulls.

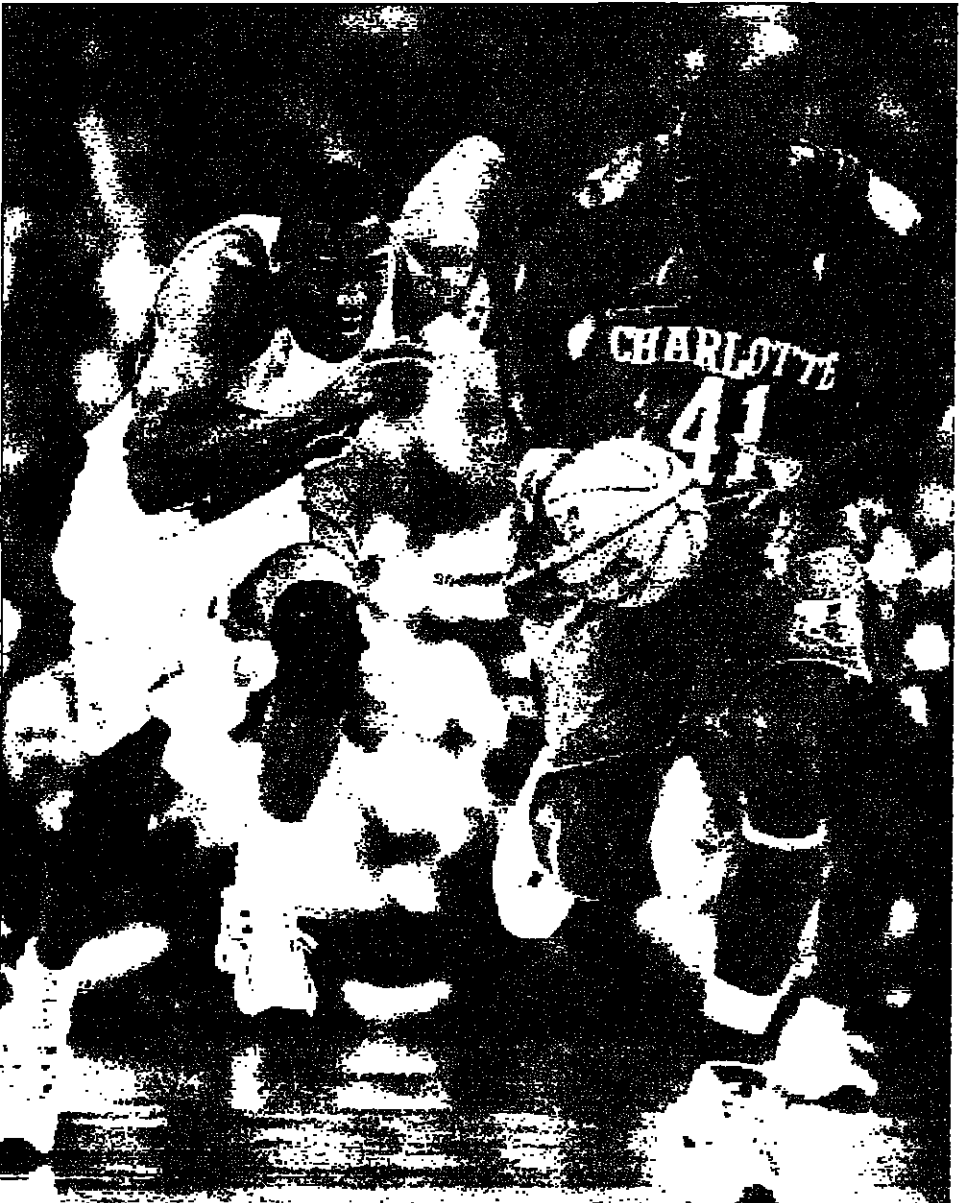
"We've definitely got to play our A game in Chicago," Mason said. "It's a team that wears it on their chests, night in and night out. They are the champs. You have to play your best ball against them."

"It's gonna be a tough one," Rice said. "We need to play our best basketball to beat them. They are a championship team. We just have to be on top of our game. It's definitely going to be a challenge but we are looking forward to it."

Friday's game was tied



Houston Rockets Charles Barkley leaps into the air after getting a steal and two points past Utah Jazz Jeff Hornacek during the first quarter of their NBA play-off game. The Rockets led the best of five series 2-1 (Reuters photo)



Charlotte Hornets Glen Rice (R) runs after stealing the ball from the Atlanta Hawks Steve Smith in first quarter action in Atlanta. The Hornets won the best of five series, beating the Hawks 91-82 to advance to the second round of playoffs (Reuters photo)

six times in the fourth quarter, the last time at 74-74 on a pair of free throws by Atlanta's Christian Laettner with 6:45 remaining. Then Hornets coach Dave Cowens said, "Mase was awesome."

"We're able to finish games off really well."

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Cameroon's star striker leaves for France

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — Cameroon's star striker Patrick Mboma left Osaka for Paris on Saturday to get his injured right thigh treated and join his national team's training camp in France before the World Cup finals. "It's not a serious injury, but Mboma is very careful about it, because he suffered the same injury several years ago and it took him three months to recover," said Gamba Osaka spokeswoman Saturday. She said Mboma hurt his right thigh when he scored a hat-trick on April 18 after not playing a game or practicing for two weeks. Mboma, the 27-year-old forward who joined Gamba Osaka in 1997 from Paris St. Germain, is going to see his doctor before training with his national side. He is expected to return to Japan after the World Cup finals.

### De Bruin stays silent on doping row

PARIS (AFP) — Irish triple Olympic champion Michelle de Bruin shrugged off doping allegations Friday to win a 100 metres freestyle heat at a club meeting — but refused to comment on the controversy surrounding her. De Bruin, 28, competing under her maiden name Smith at Sarcelles near Paris, battled past a scrum of photographers and was escorted from the pool by race officials after winning her heat in 57.67 seconds. She did not wait to compete in the semi-final or final, but was slated to appear Saturday in the 800m freestyle. On Thursday, International Olympic Committee officials said a recent urine sample from De Bruin contained enough alcohol to be fatal, and IOC Medical Commission head Prince Alexandre De Merode said the high level appeared to indicate manipulation. De Bruin has strenuously denied tampering with a sample given on January 8 in the Netherlands. She is now under investigation by world swimming's governing body, FINA, and could be banned for life if found guilty of doping. De Merode said alcohol could be used to mask the presence of other drugs in a sample.

### Kosovo calls for Yugo World Cup ban

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia was kicked out of the last World Cup because of the wars in Croatia and Bosnia. Now the Kosovo Albanians want it banned from this summer's championship too. Protesting a Serbian police crackdown, the leader of the Kosovo Albanians demanded that the Yugoslav soccer team be banned from the World Cup in France. Ibrahim Rugova appealed on the world soccer body, FIFA, and the Olympic Committee to impose sanctions against Serb-led teams and sportsmen, saying they have never in the past eight years raised a voice against the Serbian crackdown in Kosovo. More than 150 people have died in Kosovo since March, when Serbian police and military intervened against ethnic Albanian militants waging an armed struggle for the province's independence. In France, Yugoslavia is slated to play the United States, Germany and Iran in Group F preliminary matches. Yugoslavia and Germany are generally favoured to proceed to the next round.

### Juninho makes comeback

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Don't count me out! Still hopeful he can make it to the World Cup, Brazilian forward Juninho hopes to make his comeback appearance this Sunday for Atletico de Madrid three months after he suffered a serious left-leg injury. "I feel very well and I am ready to play on Sunday," newspapers quoted the 25-year-old as saying. "I am not afraid and I feel the same as I did before the injury." The leading Spanish sports daily Marca said a special envoy from Brazil was expected at the game to assess the player's recovery and his chances of being fit for France. Juninho was struck down in a tackle on Feb. 1 in Atletico de Madrid's league game against Celta.

### Berkamp player of the year

LONDON (AP) — A second title for Dennis Bergkamp as Arsenal guns for the double. Bergkamp Friday has become

the fourth overseas player in a row to win English soccer's Player of the Year award. Though sidelined for what should be Arsenal's final push for the Premier League title, the Dutch forward succeeds Tottenham's Juergen Klinsmann, Manchester United's Eric Cantona and Gianfranco Zola of Chelsea as winners of the award in the last three seasons. Bergkamp, who misses Arsenal's last three league games through injury but hopes to be fit for the May 16 FA Cup final against Newcastle, also won the annual players' award from the Professional Footballers Association two months ago. Arsenal captain Tony Adams placed second in Friday's voting by the Football Writers Association and Liverpool's 18-year-old striker Michael Owen was third.

### U.S. team to be announced

CHICAGO (AP) — U.S. coach Steve Sampson will announce his roster selections for the 1998 World Cup team in a nationally televised segment of ESPN's SportsCenter news show on Tuesday. Originally, Sampson had planned to name only about dozen or so definite members of the team prior to his training camp scheduled to start May 11 in San Diego. The United States has three friendlies scheduled in May before it departs for France on June 4. Sampson will name his roster and alternates on the 6:30 p.m. (EDT) (2230 GMT) SportsCenter, the sports cable channel's news and highlights show. The U.S. Soccer Federation also announced he will address the American media on a conference call two hours before the announcement.

### Carlos may join Man. United

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Roberto Carlos for Manchester United? The English soccer giant, expected to lose its Premier League title to Arsenal this weekend, is prepared to pay a massive \$85 million as a down payment to buy Brazil's bullet-foot defender Roberto Carlos from Real Madrid. "Manchester United has told us it is willing to pay the waiver clause price to end (the player's) contract and that it will get in contact with Real after May 20," Oliveira Junior, one of the defender's agents told the El Mundo newspaper. "Roberto Carlos wants to stay in Madrid and right now he is concentrating on winning the (European) Champions League, but after the final we'll have to talk," Oliveira told the paper. At 25, Roberto Carlos is ranked as one of the best left wing defenders in the world. He is also known to have one of the fastest shots in the game. Real Madrid, which plays Juventus in the European cup final on May 20, signed Roberto Carlos in 1996. Last June his contract was renewed and he is technically tied to the Spanish club until 2002. The player's waiver clause is set at 14.6 billion pesetas (\$97 million) pesetas but only 12.7 billion pesetas (\$85 million) would have to be paid to the club, El Mundo said.

### Mexicans train in Italy

FLORENCE (AP) — Mexico's national team is slated to arrive at the Coviciano training site Saturday to begin final preparations ahead of the World Cup. Mexico has four tuneup games planned in Italy, though none are against fellow France '98 qualifiers. Coach Tito De la Puente's side will face Serie A club Bologna May 7, Estonia May 9, second-division Venezia May 13 and Romania's Steaua Bucharest May 16. Italy trained at Coviciano ahead of several of its matches during World Cup qualifying.

### Italy weighs chances

MILAN (AP) — If the Italian team struggles in the early rounds of the World Cup, history indicates they could be headed back to the final. In 1982 and 1994, Italy barely got through the first round and had to score late and then go into extra time to beat Nigeria in the second round before playing its way into the championship match at the Rose Bowl. It placed third in 1990 at home. Italy already has struggled this year and barely qualified for the World Cup, edging Russia 2-1 on aggregate in a two-leg playoff.

## Hackett goes under 15 minutes in winning 1500m

MELBOURNE (AFP) — World champion Grant Hackett went under the 15-minute barrier for the second time in an emphatic victory over Daniel Kowalski and Kieren Perkins to win the 1500 metre freestyle at Australia's Commonwealth Games swimming trials here Saturday.

Hackett, 17, hit the wall in 14 minutes 56.23 seconds to beat world champion bronze medalist Kowalski by more than 10 seconds.

World record holder Perkins, needing a placing to ensure selection in Australia's team for September's Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games, was third in 15:12.23.

Earlier, world and Olympic butterfly champion Susie O'Neill eclipsed a long-standing national record with victory in the 200m butterfly for her 30th national title overtaking the previous highest number by Frank Beaurepaire.

Hackett's winning time was just 4.53s off the time he swam almost four months ago to beat European champion Emiliano Brembilla to win the 1500m gold medal at the world championships in Perth.

The giant teenager's effort here would have beaten gold medalist Perkins at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and is all the more impressive considering Hackett's training program has been interrupted because of sinus surgery.

Hackett swam stroke for stroke with

Kowalski, the Atlanta Olympic silver medalist in the event, until the 1000m mark Saturday and then surged away over the final 500m or 10 laps.

Perkins clocked 15:12.23 to be about half a minute outside his world record (14:41.66) set at the 1994 Victoria Commonwealth Games in Canada but it was enough to win him a place in his first major Australian team since Atlanta almost two years ago.

"I'm happy, I was only a body length behind for the first 1000m which was encouraging but I've still got a lot of work to do," said Perkins.

Perkins said making the team would be the spark he needed to get his swimming career back on track.

"I feel that will be the turnaround for me," he said.

"It will give me the opportunity to train with Grant and Daniel and Ian Thorpe."

"To be in that team environment again ... makes a real difference with your motivation."

"With another four months of training, hopefully I can improve my time by another 20 seconds."

Hackett sounded an ominous warning to his rivals after the race, his second career sub-15 minute swim.

"I haven't had the ideal preparation," he said.

"But there's nothing that's going to stop

me between here and the Commonwealth Games."

"I'm not at my peak fitness yet. I didn't give it my all tonight."

O'Neill burst into tears as she stood atop the victory dais following her butterfly triumph as Australia's most prolific national swimming champion to a standing ovation Saturday.

The 24-year-old easily won her seventh straight Australian 200m butterfly final here to collect her 30th national open title and emerge from the shadow of swimming legend Beaurepaire, who notched 29 wins between 1988 and 1994.

"I've never burst into tears on the victory dais before," said O'Neill, who has collected gold medals at every level in international swimming.

"The closest I've ever probably come before was at the world championships in Perth."

"To break Beaurepaire's record means a lot of me. It's ... up there with winning the Olympics. It's nice to create history."

O'Neill easily qualified for her third Commonwealth Games during the titles this week with victories in the 100m and 200m freestyle and butterfly doubles.

She also won silver in the 400m freestyle, meaning she could contest up to eight events in Kuala Lumpur, including all three women's relays.

## Agassi easily

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Andre Agassi triumphantly overpowered Rainer Schuettler in a third-round match Friday at the BMW Open tennis tournament. Agassi, who won the tournament last year, defeated Schuettler 6-1, 6-0 in 55 minutes.

Despite the lull in the second set after 10 minutes, Agassi gathered himself quickly and completed the match in 55 minutes.

It's very un-caring when you're playing and head down, said Agassi, who said the third career victory over Borgman in a draw.

It's important not to rush, Agassi said, but if you're playing and head down, you can keep things nice and be more confident.

Agassi got a response from the fans — but not the line — but he said anything that the fans could do to help him would be appreciated.

He said something in German — "I don't get away from the fans" — but he said he was happy to hear the fans cheering.

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## Agassi easily advances to semis

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Andre Agassi jokingly cowered behind a startled linesman Friday as a thunderclap momentarily interrupted his BMW Open quarter-final against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman.

Despite the loud interruption after 1-0 in the second set to the American eighth seed, Agassi gathered his wits quickly and completed a 6-2, 6-2 march into the semifinals on clay in 58 minutes.

"It's very unsettling when you're playing and hear that," said Agassi, who ended his third career victory over Bjorkman in a drizzle.

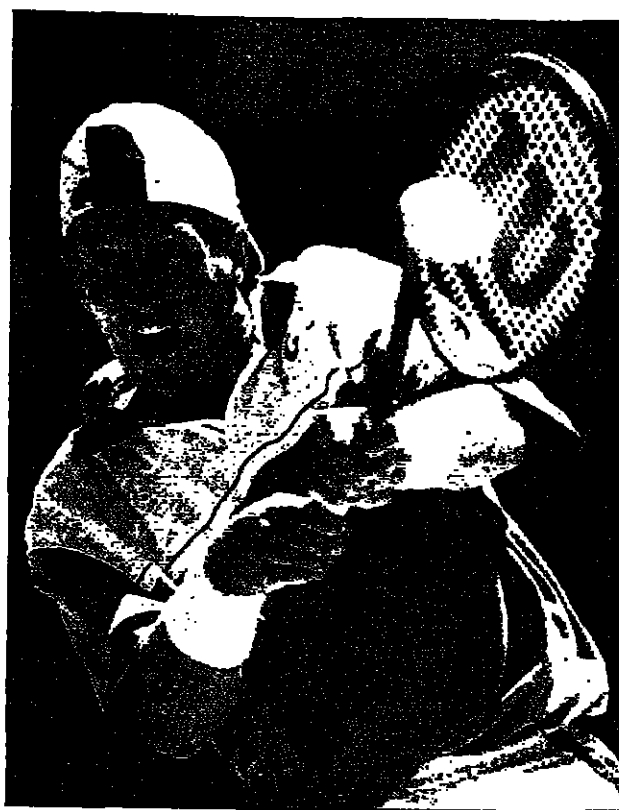
"It's important not to rush and speed yourself up. I was up a set and a break, but if I'd played a bad game there, I'm seconds away from the match being even. You've got to keep things nice and the same tempo."

Agassi got a response from the linesman — but not anything that the Las Vegas right-hander could understand.

"He said something in German — probably 'don't touch me, get away!'"

The 20th-ranked Agassi has now reached his fifth semifinal in seven tournaments as his miracle comeback from No. 141 last autumn continues at full throttle.

The eighth seed next faces Spaniard Galo Blanco, who spent two hours, 32 minutes in defeating Sweden's Thomas



Jonas Bjorkman

Nydhall 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7/1) in sunny conditions.

Despite the poor weather, officials were hoping to stage the concluding quarter-finals late Friday.

Of the four Swedes who started the day Magnus Gustafsson (playing Australian Open semifinalist Nicolas Escude of France) and seventh seed Thomas Enqvist (against German Oliver Gross) were still in contention for the semis.

Matches will be held

Saturday morning with the semi-finals set for the afternoon, tournament officials said.

Agassi proved that his clay court form is no fluke with his victory over world No. 7 Bjorkman.

"I step on the court now and I want to win every match," said the 28-year-old world No. 20, who was given a suit of Bavarian clothing by the tournament for his Wednesday birthday.

"It's nice to play someone in the Top Ten because you

can judge your game. Jonas has been playing well this week. For me to get the win in the fashion that I did gives me a lot of confidence."

Agassi added: "More importantly, I move on to the next round — that's what I need."

The American meanwhile turned down a wild card entry for next week's German Open in Hamburg. Agassi said that the heavy surface there would not suit him right now.

"For me to play well on slow clay wouldn't mean much. It's very different than Paris. I'm trying to prepare for the French Open."

"Hamburg didn't really fit my plans, that's what I felt as it got closer."

Seventh seed Thomas Enqvist and evergreen 31-year-old Magnus Gustafsson saved face for Sweden after the defeats of Nydhall and Bjorkman.

Enqvist, 21st in the world and never particularly at home on clay, dismissed the final German contender, Oliver Gross, 6-3, 6-3 in the chilly conditions of late afternoon.

Gustafsson, who has already won a title this year at Copenhagen, advanced into a match-up with his compatriot as he ousted Frenchman Nicolas Escude 6-3, 6-1.

Enqvist has the edge in the pair's career confrontation, winning four while losing only two.

## Jazireh request Prince Abdullah to resolve Premier League deadlock

### Hamdan: suspending the championship was best solution until compromise is reached

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh Club Saturday urged His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, president of the Jordan Football Association (JFA), to interfere to resolve the deadlock over the suspension of the Premier League (PL) Championship.

The JFA's decision to suspend the PL matches followed a similar one by seven of the ten competing clubs on Thursday over their demand to reallocate the revenues from ticket sales.

Also Saturday, JFA spokesman Mohammad Hamdan confirmed that a meeting will take place on May 11 to discuss the deadlock over the issue.

The JFA secretary told the Jordan Times that a committee was formed to try to overcome the logjam over the distribution of

ticket sales. He added that the committee will submit a report to the JFA executive board within two weeks.

"Suspending the PL Championship was the best solution we could have to avoid a confrontation with the seven clubs," Mr. Hamdan said. "We will meet with representatives of the ten clubs to reach a compromise that would satisfy all parties."

The seven clubs are demanding an equal distribution of the revenue among the ten clubs irrespective of the number of fans attending each club's matches.

Two clubs, Al Wihdat and Shabab Al Hussein, declined to support this demand and hinted that any change of the present formula that governs the distribution of the revenues would prompt a "reconsideration" of their stand of competing in the

PL championship.

Abdullah Kiswani, president of Al Jazireh Club which did not support any of the two stands, told a press conference that a meeting between the JFA and representatives of the ten clubs was necessary to solve the logjam over the issue.

"The question is not the distribution of revenue rather than other internal problems among these clubs which prompted the suspension of the PL Championship," Mr. Kiswani told reporters.

"We believe that a meeting between the JFA and the ten clubs is a must to resolve the problem," Mr. Kiswani added.

"Some concession has to be made by the clubs over the issue if such a meeting took place," Al Jazireh spokesman said.

"We are not supporting any of two camps. We are for a formula that gains the

consensus of all clubs," Mr. Kiswani noted.

He blamed the JFA's officials of "ignoring" some of the PL clubs and resorting to decisions without any consultation with the ten clubs.

Mr. Kiswani accused the JFA of "discriminating" among the ten clubs where "consideration to interests of some clubs comes at the expense of others." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Kiswani also criticised the JFA's decision-making mechanism, the registration of players, formation of JFA's committees and other issues.

He added that a recent agreement between the JFA and four businessmen to market and sell PL matches in return for a JD300,000 should have been made after a "thorough" consultation with the concerned parties.

## Hingis sweeps Capriati away

HAMBURG (AFP) — Martina Hingis interrupted Jennifer Capriati's latest comeback with a decisive 6-1, 6-3 win in the quarter-finals of the Internazionali d'Italia tennis tournament on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Swiss, who stunned Virginia Ruano-Pascual of Spain 6-0, 6-0, Switzerland's Hingis next tackles second seed Jana Novotna after the Czech eased her way to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over German qualifier Julia Abe.

Capriati's game never caught fire against Hingis, whom she took to three close sets when they played in the Sydney final 16 months ago.

Instead the main source of entertainment came from the new folding roof when, with the court bathed in brilliant sunshine, rain caught in the roof from earlier in the week began to cascade on to the court and a number of surprised box seat holders.

With Hingis leading 5-2 in the second set, play was suspended for 37 minutes as the roof was closed and reopened in an only partially successful attempt at solving the problem.

"That was definitely a first," said Capriati. "I guess they need to do a better job on it."

The break gave her a chance to regroup, but the damage had already been done by a very solid performance from Hingis and the American's own inconsistencies.

Still, with a long-term aim of returning to the top 20, the American wasn't too disappointed, and she has accepted a wild card into next week's Italian Open.

"It could be a long way away but it's something I'm prepared to go through," she vowed. "There are a few things I have to work on, but I'm definitely in it. It's just that I haven't played as many matches as my opponents, and that's the only way I can get more confidence and improve my fitness."

Hingis was satisfied with her performance, in which she rallied well and often caught Capriati off guard

with some well-executed dropshots.

"I played very well, very concentrated," said Hingis. "I didn't know what to expect and whether she'd bring any shots from the old times out of her pocket."

Schnyder is one of the most improved players this year with tournament victories in Hobart and Hannover, and she was able to take advantage of a very erratic performance from third seed Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-0.

Hingis now faces Austria's Barbara Schett, who stunned Virginia Ruano-Pascual of Spain 6-0, 6-0. Switzerland's Hingis next tackles second seed Jana Novotna after the Czech eased her way to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over German qualifier Julia Abe.

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## Sampras manages quarterfinal win

DULUTH, Georgia (AP) — Top seed Pete Sampras travelled down another rocky road in the \$315,000 AT&T Challenge, edging Ramon Delgado of Paraguay 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-3).

"It was definitely a struggle once again," admitted Sampras, who advanced Friday night to his third semifinal of 1998. "It was very cold tonight. Once, I could see my breath. The conditions were very slow and heavy."

The American, ranked No. 1 in the world, began strongly against Delgado, ranked 104th, with two service breaks to go up 4-1. Playing solidly from the baseline, however, the Paraguayan managed to break back in the next game and again at 4-5 to even the set.

Delgado jumped to a 4-1 lead in the tiebreaker. He missed a backhand, however, allowing Sampras to tie it 4-4. Delgado, up again at 6-5, served for the set but Sampras nailed a running forehand passing shot cross-court to save the

point. Serving for the set at 7-6, Sampras then crushed a forehand winner off Delgado's weak return.

Sampras and Delgado held serve after trading early breaks in the second set to force another tiebreaker. Once again a couple of big forehands spelled the difference as Sampras opened a 5-2 lead.

Sampras hit just 48 per cent of his first serves and had seven double faults.

The semifinals features second-seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia against sixth-seed Andrei Pavel, of Romania, and Sampras against 81st-ranked Alex Calatrava of Spain.

Calatrava advanced to his second career semifinal when Steve Campbell was unable to continue. Stoltenberg made quick work of ailing American Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-1.

Boston Red Sox left-fielder Troy O'Leary (L) and centerfielder Darren Lewis (R) chase and lose Texas Rangers batter Will Clark's fly to left centre field, allowing Texas baserunners Juan Gonzalez and Mark McLemore to score in third inning action at Boston's Fenway Park (Reuters photo)



## SCOREBOARD

### National Hockey League

First round playoffs (series best-of-seven).  
Eastern Conference Quarterfinals  
Buffalo 3 Philadelphia 2  
(Buffalo wins series, 4-1)  
Montreal 5 Pittsburgh 2  
(Montreal leads series, 3-2)  
Boston 4 Washington 0  
(Boston leads series, 3-2)

### National League

Chicago Cubs 6  
Florida 6  
Montreal 7  
Houston 12  
Pittsburgh 5  
Atlanta 6  
Milwaukee 5

St Louis 5  
San Diego 5 (11 Innings)  
Arizona 4  
Philadelphia 5  
Los Angeles 4  
San Francisco 2  
Cincinnati 2

### Colorado at NY Mets — Postponed

### American League

Baltimore 6 Minnesota 3  
Boston 5 Texas 3  
Cleveland 7 Tampa Bay 5  
NY Yankees 2 Kansas City 1  
Anaheim 7 Chi White Sox 1  
Oakland 5 Toronto 2  
Detroit 17 Seattle 3

### National Basketball Association

Playoffs first round (all series best-of-five)  
Eastern Conference  
Charlotte 91 Atlanta 82  
(Charlotte win series 3-1)  
Western Conference  
Utah 93 Houston 71  
(Series tied 2-2)

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Super deluxe villa with an area of 550 sq.m.  
Annual Rent JD15,000.  
For more information, please call Tel.: 5815791, between 3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

### The British Council Library & Information Services New Opening Hours

As from 1st May 1998.  
Library & Information Services opening hours will be as follows:  
Sunday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Closed on Fridays and Saturdays  
For further information please contact us at:  
Tel. 4636147, 4636148

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AK Q104 OK 1098 0874 48  
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A - Normally, you bid up-the-line when you hold more than one four-card suit. You have a pretty fair hand in support of either major, but there's no reason why you should want to be declarer — you have no tenace position to protect. Make the textbook one diamond response and let partner introduce a major, should he have one.

Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AA Q3 743 Q10 AJ 10652  
The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 1A 1A 7

What do you do?  
A - Obviously, the choice lies between raising partner's minor or bidding one no trump. With two sure supports in the enemy suit and a probable source of tricks in clubs, a nine-trick contract looks to be your most likely game, if you have one, so bid one no trump.

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AA Q3 743 Q10 AJ 10652  
What is your opening bid?

A - Since neither your hand nor your suit is good enough for a demand bid of two hearts, you have little choice other than to open one heart. However, we have a sneaky admiration for those who tuck a heart in with the diamonds and bid two no trump — a viable option had both your losing suits been minors.

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

487632 072 0A762 463  
The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH 1C 1NT 7

What action do you take?  
A - You do not have much of a hand, but experience shows that it is wrong to pass with a five-card major when you have an ace in your hand. Bid one spade.

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

410763 039342 0A6 AK3  
The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH 1C 1NT 7

What action do you take?  
A - You have too much to pass, but which do you bid? Since partner has at least one major, you don't have to guess. Cue-bid two diamonds, and let partner make the choice. If North denies a major, you can bid your hearts. You have enough to compete at the three-level.

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4Q10 7978 0KQJ842 443  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A - Whether partner is maximum or minimum is not the issue here — it is whether your hand is going to produce six tricks or not. The former is a strong possibility — if partner does not have the ace of diamonds, either diamond length in the North hand or the queen of spades as an entry will suffice. Raise to three no trump.



## THE JORDANIAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

The Binational Fulbright Commission (BFC) in Jordan is pleased to announce the scholarship awards competition for Jordanian nationals only, for the 1999-2000 academic year in the United States in the following award categories:

- Graduate Degree (Masters or PhD)
- Post-Doctoral Research or Lecturing
- H.H. Humphrey Professional, non-degree program

Individuals interested in applying for these prestigious awards must meet the basic minimum requirements:

- Superior Academic and/or Professional Achievement
- English Language Proficiency (TOEFL of 575 or better)
- Required Standardized Tests (GRE, GMAT) for the graduate degree application.

Completed applications for each of the given categories must be submitted to the BFC Fulbright office No Later Than 30 July 1998 (No Exceptions).

For more detailed information on the minimum requirements to compete for each award and to obtain application forms, please visit the

"Fulbright House" in Shmeisani at 19 Mahdi Bin Barakah Street.  
Tel: 568-4760 or Fax: 568-4820.



## Saudi Arabia urges U.S. to renew contacts with Iran

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has urged the United States to renew contacts with Iran during a visit to the kingdom by U.S. Vice President Al Gore, diplomats here said Saturday.

King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah told visiting Mr. Gore that Iran's policies have changed since moderate President Mohammad Khatami came to power in August and encouraged Mr. Gore to set up contacts with Tehran, a Western diplomat said.

The diplomat said that while Saudi Arabia was not mediating between the

United States, it was explaining Iran's positions to the United States.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal plans to discuss the U.S. stance towards Iran during his visit to Tehran this month, the diplomat said.

The United States severed diplomatic relations with Iran in April 1980 after revolutionaries seized 52 hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran during the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Following Mr. Khatami's election last year, the United States has eased its

policy of seeking to isolate Iran and is now seeking to open a dialogue with Tehran.

Mr. Khatami has responded to the U.S. offer by proposing broader contacts between Iranians and Americans to promote understanding between the two countries.

But Iran angrily rejected on Friday a U.S. report branding the Islamic republic the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 1997 and said the allegations would deepen the rift between the two countries.

## Yemeni kidnappers of Britons demand direct talks with officials

SANAA (AFP) — Armed tribesmen who kidnapped three Britons more than two weeks ago are demanding direct negotiations with the Yemeni government before they are released, a tribal official said on Saturday.

Kidnappers from the Bani Dabyan tribe want talks with an official with the power to meet their demands, but the Yemeni government is refusing any direct negotiations and is demanding the release of the British family without conditions, the tribal official said.

British teacher David Mitchell, his wife Carolyn and their 14-year-old son Ben were taken hostage on April 16 in an ambush on the road from the southern city of Aden and remain in captivity despite assurances last month from Yemen's president that their release was imminent.

They are being held in the village of Quradh, a mountainous region close to Dhamar, some 160 kilometres southeast of the capital Sanaa. The area has been

surrounded by security forces, the tribal official said.

The Yemeni authorities have refrained from using force to avoid endangering the hostages' lives, the official said, adding that the British family was in good health.

The British government has informed Yemen that it wants the couple and their son freed through peaceful means.

The kidnappers are reportedly seeking government aid for their region.

A British diplomat in Sanaa said: "We aren't sure yet what the kidnappers' demands are, but they appear to want roads, electricity and schools."

The tribal official said the abductors are also demanding that the authorities return a vehicle owned by members of the tribe. The vehicle had been confiscated by police in Sanaa when the tribesmen tried to kidnap a Western diplomat in April.

The Yemeni government has put Sheikh Mohammed

Ben Neji Al Ghader, the chief of the influential tribe of Khawalan, in charge of the negotiations for the Britons' release with the neighbouring Bani Dabyan.

Sheikh Ghader sent two of his representatives to the Bani Dabyan, but the talks failed and they returned to Sanaa Thursday.

Earlier mediation efforts by Sanaa Governor Mohammed Abdallah Al Sufi also proved fruitless.

Mr. Sufi had been instrumental in winning the freedom of Briton Henry Thompson, a charity worker kidnapped in October 1997 by the same tribe.

The Bani Dabyan have abducted several foreigners, a practice that is becoming a common way for tribes to win government concessions.

More than 100 foreigners have been abducted since 1993 by Yemeni tribesmen. The hostages have been used as bargaining chips in disputes with the authorities, but treated as guests and released unharmed.

## Two months after Annan deal, U.N. avoids making waves with Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Two months after U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan brokered a deal that averted war between the United States and Iraq, the new U.N. attitude toward the arms inspection conflict seems to be "Don't make waves." Meanwhile, it is the U.N. weapons inspectors — not the Iraqis — who are under siege.

The inspectors are fighting to defend the independence of their mission to determine if Baghdad is still holding banned weapons.

Russia, Iraq's chief

role in the programme, and Russia, France, and China are pushing ahead with a campaign to scale back inspections of Iraq's nuclear research facilities.

The United States is trying to show flexibility on some of these demands in hopes of holding the council together to maintain economic sanctions against Iraq.

The council imposed the sanctions in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait, triggering the 1991 Persian Gulf war. Council members agreed to maintain the sanctions until U.N. inspectors certify that Iraq has destroyed long-range missiles and

chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

For years, the council routinely renewed those sanctions with little debate. But last year's crisis over U.N. access to key suspected weapons sites in Iraq changed all that. The council took 10 hours Monday to renew the embargo.

In response, Iraq's two top decision-making bodies, the Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party Command, sent an open letter to the Security Council warning of "grave consequences" if it does not lift the sanctions.

## Viagra mania: Impotent men rejoice, but questions abound

By David Foster and Daniel Q. Haney  
Associated Press

SUN CITY — A retirement community might seem an unlikely hotbed for sexual revolution, but such is the power of a little blue pill. Down palm-lined streets where golf, grandchildren and gallstones are the usual topics of conversation, the new talk of the town is Viagra, a potent new medicine for male impotence.

Some here call it "that sex pill." Harold Dennis, 61, calls it something close to a miracle.

"I've been impotent since 1986. But last night, I felt good." He puts his arm around his wife, Juanita, and flashes a big grin. "It was very satisfactory."

In the three weeks Viagra has been available, drugstores have filled an estimated 150,000 prescriptions. "America, men have action in a way they years — and both men engaged in rimming of the and the playing ice again. She treatments for vacuum pumps, us and drugs into the penis

or plunged down the urethra — but their disadvantages are obvious.

Viagra is something new: the first pill that makes erections possible. Take the tablet. Wait a half hour. Add a little old-fashioned sexual stimulation. And things begin to happen, perhaps for the first time in a long while.

No wonder doctors can't write prescriptions fast enough. "It's the biggest thing since the Beatles," said Rafael Wurzel of New Britain General Hospital in the northeastern state of Connecticut. He has already made out more than 300 Viagra prescriptions.

"There are about 30 million guys out there" with erectile dysfunction — as impotence is called now by most doctors — "and hardly any will acknowledge the problem and get help," Dr. Wurzel said. "All of a sudden, I see this taboo totally debunked because of Viagra."

Overnight, patients he'd seen for years for kidney stones, prostate woes, bladder tumours, whatever, began calling him to talk about this other little matter they'd never gotten around to mentioning.

Typical of his patients is

Bernard, 58, a retired construction worker who, like many taking the pill, doesn't want to see his name in the newspaper. Cancer and emphysema, plus the side effects of his medicines, have made erections unpredictable for him the past four years, but he's still grinning about the first time he took Viagra.

"I didn't say a word to my partner before," he said. "But afterward, she asked what got into me. This took me back 10 years. It's changed my life. It's given me more self-confidence. I feel good about who I am."

Doctors generally appear to be prescribing the drug for men like Bernard who have clear physical reasons for their impotence. Among the most common causes are diseases that damage the nerves or interfere with blood flow to the penis. These include high blood pressure, diabetes, clogged arteries, multiple sclerosis and reactions to medications.

"It definitely works, but it won't work for everybody," said William Steers, chairman of urology at the University of Virginia Health Science Centre. "I tell patients that the chance of a home run is 50-50."

Among those most interested

in Viagra are men who have had their cancerous prostate glands removed. The operation often snips nerves essential for erections. Many of these men are still vigorous and healthy, and still interested in sex. But only about 25 percent to 40 percent are likely to be helped by Viagra.

Lon, a retired financial planner in Clovis, California, has been impotent since prostate surgery three years ago. The second time he took Viagra, he felt "a slight beginning of an erection, but nothing to get excited about." So he will stick with his inflatable implant, which he says is not as bad as it sounds.

Viagra may not be just for men. Studies are going on to see whether Viagra can rejuvenate women's sex lives, too. Baltimore hairdresser Laurie Kline took a pill last week and said she had her first orgasm since her hysterectomy five years ago.

"It was like it used to be — maybe even a little bit better," she said.

While specialists are delighted to have something new to offer their patients — and talk-show hosts are rushing to line up guests — some observers

worry about Viagra's effects beyond the mechanics of erection.

What will it do to couples' relationships? What about the curious who want to see if it revs up normal sexual prowess? How much sex should an ageing man expect, anyway? Who will pay for it? Pfizer Inc., which makes

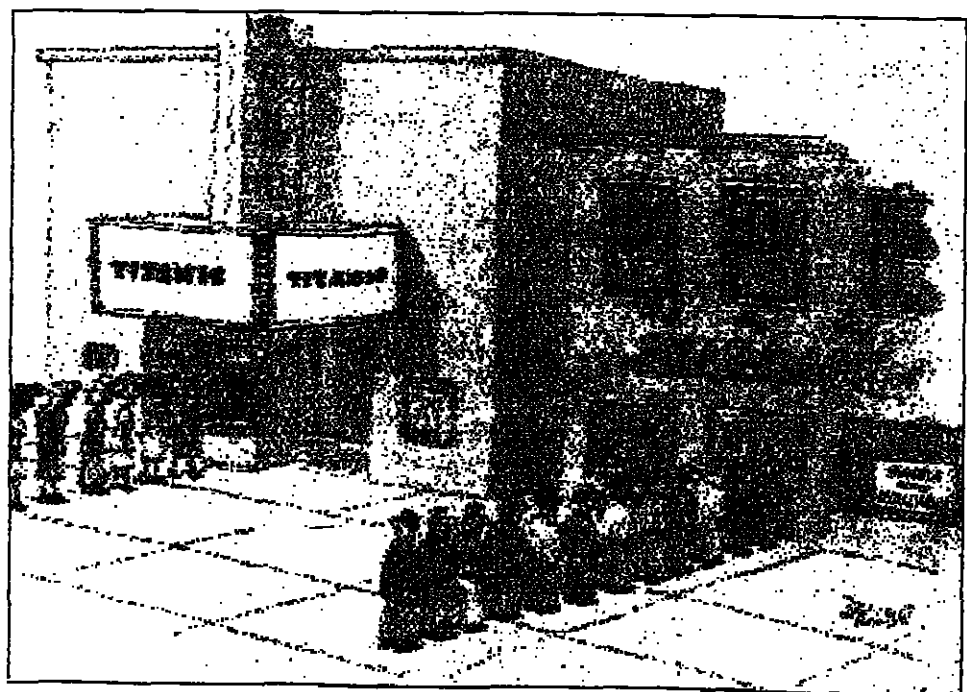
of shuttle diplomacy between Mr. Denktash and Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides on restarting stalled peace talks.

Mr. Denktash pulled out of U.N.-brokered negotiations last year and has refused to return until Turkish Cypriot sovereignty is recognised. He gave no sign on Saturday of a softening of attitude.

Ethnic Greeks and Turks on

Cyprus have been separated since Turkish troops invaded in 1974 after a brief Greek-inspired coup. A U.N.-patrolled "green line" buffer zone separates them.

International mediators are anxious to head off growing tension over the arrival later this year of Russian anti-aircraft missiles ordered by the Greek Cypriots.



(Cartoon published in Time Magazine)

Worry about Viagra's effects beyond the mechanics of erection.

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Viagra, stresses that it's not quite a sexual fountain of youth.

"Viagra restores. It doesn't create," said spokesman Andy McCormick. "A 55-year-old man taking Viagra would report a return of desire consistent with a healthy 55-year-old man, not to the level of a 22-year-old."

Viagra has been tested mostly on men who are clearly impotent, and doctors say there's no reason to believe the drug will do anything for those who get normal erections. But the idea, even without evidence, that this elixir might make erections grow harder, last longer and return sooner clearly intrigues many.



CAMBODIANS FLEE TO THAILAND: A truck overloaded with Khmer Rouge refugees enters a United Nations High Commission Centre for Refugees Camp near Huay Samran, 460 kilometres northwest of Bangkok, Saturday. An estimated 20,000 Khmer Rouge and Cambodian refugees have fled across the border to Thailand as heavy fighting between Cambodian army forces and Khmer Rouge soldiers continues (AP Photo)

## Iran pledges to continue support for Palestinians

TEHRAN (R) — Iran pledged to continue its support for Palestinians in their struggle against Israeli occupation, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted as saying on Iranian television on Saturday.

Ayatollah Khamenei made his remarks during a meeting with Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the Islamist Palestinian Hamas group, which has claimed responsibility for many attacks against Israeli targets in recent years.

"We will continue to fight, and no amount of political, economic, or propaganda pressure, will take us away from the path of support for the Palestinian cause," Ayatollah Khamenei was quoted as telling 61-year-old Sheikh Yassin, who was

Tehran rejects the current Middle East peace process, but says it would do nothing to hinder it.

Iran regularly refers to Israel as "the Zionist regime" or the "Zionist occupiers."

"There is a difference between Judaism and Zionism and the Iranian government will not recognise the occupying Zionist regime even for one hour," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Television showed the wheelchair-bound Sheikh Yassin smiling as Ayatollah Khamenei spoke.

Sheikh Yassin, who is wrapping a five-day visit to Tehran, also met former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Saturday, the television said.

"We appreciate the support of Iran and we will continue our struggle until we free holy Jerusalem from Israeli occupation," Sheikh Yassin was quoted as saying.

## Sheikh Yassin predicts failure of London talks

TEHRAN (AFP) — The spiritual leader and founder of the Palestinian movement Hamas forecast on Saturday the failure of crucial peace talks between Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. leaders next week.

"I don't think this meeting can achieve anything," Sheikh Ahmad Yassin told the Iranian newspaper Jomhuri-Isfahani.

"The United States is not serious in establishing peace in the region because it supports Israel, and Britain is the cause of the tragedy of Palestine," said Sheikh Yassin, who is currently visiting Iran.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was a "right-

wing fundamentalist and will lose his position if he makes concessions to the Palestinians."

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to meet separately with Palestinian President Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu in London on Monday to try to seal a "package deal" drawn up by the United States over issues left over from interim self-rule accords, so the two sides can start negotiations on a final peace settlement.

But Mr. Netanyahu has steadfastly rejected U.S. proposals for an Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank, the central issue at Monday's talks.

## Denktash says Cyprus might remain divided

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said on Saturday that Cyprus would remain divided if Greek Cypriots did not acknowledge the existence of his breakaway state.

"If you want Cyprus to be united, two states are ready to unite. If not, let Cyprus be divided," Mr. Denktash told journalists at the start of talks

with U.S. presidential envoy Richard Holbrooke.

"We exist and we are going to exist as the Turkish Republic of northern Cyprus," Mr. Denktash said at his residence in northern Nicosia as Mr. Holbrooke sat beside him.

Mr. Holbrooke, who made no comment, arrived on the island on Friday for four days

of shuttle diplomacy between Mr. Denktash and Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides on restarting stalled peace talks.

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## Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — They are the beautiful people, according to the U.S. magazine People. Which just goes to show that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. Hollywood's latest heart-throb Leonardo DiCaprio, unsurprisingly, was right up there among the world's 50 most beautiful people, the magazine decided. He had to share the beauty stakes with the likes of Prince William, elder son of the late Princess Diana and second in line to the throne, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Also listed were Indian writer Arundhati Roy, tennis star Anna Kournikova, Spanish singer Enrique Iglesias, ball player Alex Rodriguez and singer Erykah Badu.

Volume 23 Number 6829

## King: Should To have an

By Tarek Ayoub  
Jordan Times

His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday

Mark Addy gets in big demand

LONDON (AFP) — Mark Addy, the rubby loser who bared his all in "The Full Monty," is in big demand these days. Currently filming in Hollywood, he's fast emerging as the most successful of the troupe of actors who, in the hit comedy, portray a group of redundant steelworkers who turn to stripping to make ends meet. Addy got just \$26,000 for that role, a far cry from the three million pounds he's reported to be earning over the next 18 months. He was offered a host of roles after "The Full Monty," eventually plumping for "Frost," a Warner Bros. comedy starring Michael Keaton and Kelly Preston, which he's currently filming.

Rapper arrested for pot possession

UNIVERSAL CITY (AP) — Snoop Doggy Dogg and another rapper were arrested for investigation of marijuana possession at a comedy show, and a crowd of about 60 fans rushed backstage to get a closer look. Calvin Broadus, 26, who goes by the stage name Snoop Doggy Dogg, and fellow rapper Delmar Arnaud were arrested Friday and booked on one count each of misdemeanor marijuana possession, sheriff's Lt. Brad Welker. They were released after receiving a citation to appear in court.

Irving with a lead role

LONDON (AFP) — Amy Irving, the "Carrie" star once known as Mrs. Spielberg, is reviving her career with a lead role in a sequel to the horror classic. After her role 22 years ago in "Carrie," she disappeared from sight somewhat with her marriage to Steven Spielberg. The couple were divorced in 1989 and recently she's been making a comeback, with a small role in Woody Allen's "Deconstructing Harry."

Don Johnson to wed Kelley Phleger

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.S. television actor Don Johnson, 48, is planning to wed Kelley Phleger, a member of San Francisco's upper crust, later this year. Johnson reportedly proposed to the dark-haired, 29-year-old school teacher and former debutante and gave her a 5.5-carat diamond ring. It would be the former "Miami Vice" star's fifth trip to the altar. He has had two marriages annulled and has twice married and divorced actress Melanie Griffith. "They've been seeing each other about six months," Elliott Mintz, Johnson's spokesman said. "They met, they fell in love, they intend to wed."

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## Hizbollah attacks SLA

RASHAYA (AP) — Hizbollah fighters attacked Israeli military positions in southern Lebanon with mortar and rocket-propelled grenades Saturday. There was no immediate report of casualties from the attack by the guerrillas, which is based in southern Lebanon. Israel responded shortly after the attack with a series of artillery and missile strikes on suspected Hizbollah targets in the area. There were no reports of casualties from the fighting, which is continuing on a daily basis.

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